

For Catholic Women's League of Canada  
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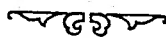


Courtesy Calgary Exhibition and Stampede

Valley of the Alexander Glacier  
Vicinity of South face of the Columbia Icefield, North of Banff and Lake Louise

Photo by W. J. Oliver

# A Short History of the Catholic Church in Southern Alberta - Diocese of Calgary -



A Souvenir of the 28th Annual National Convention of the  
Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Held in Calgary, Alberta, November 3rd - 8th, 1948



Run 32



Can.

A Short History of the  
**Catholic Church in Southern Alberta**

- Diocese of Calgary -

1865-1948

with  
Illustrations of Southern Alberta  
and the Rocky Mountains



Commemorative of the  
28th Annual Convention  
of the  
Catholic Women's League of Canada

Calgary, Alberta  
November 3rd to 8th, 1948

Issued by the Calgary Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League  
of Canada, September, 1948.

*Nihil obstat*

Right Reverend J. S. Smith, Diocesan Director  
Mrs. Hermon Stevens, Diocesan President.



Courtesy of CALGARY EXHIBITION & STAMPEDE

Photo by Oliver Studio

## The Beginning and Growth of Catholicism for the past 83 years in the southern half of the Province of Alberta which is now included in the Diocese of Calgary

**E**IGHTY-THREE years ago the inhabitants of this district were Indians—Blackfeet, Bloods, Sarcees and Piegans. The buffalo roamed over the prairies in large herds.

According to the Register of Baptisms, Reverend Albert Lacombe, O.M.I., coming from the northern part of the province, visited the district, accompanied by John L'Heureux, a layman, and instructed and baptized during the month of March, 1865, four hundred and forty-two Indians. In March 1866, there is the record of only two baptisms. The next records we have are of 1870 when in March and April Father Lacombe baptized forty-eight Indians.

On September 22, 1871, the diocese of St. Albert was established and its first bishop was Monsignor Vital Justin Grandin, O.M.I., who had been a missionary bishop in the sub-arctic for a number of years. What is now the Calgary diocese and the Edmonton archdiocese was included in the diocese of St. Albert.

In the years 1871 to 1873 there are recorded in the register of baptisms another 266 baptisms by

Bishop Grandin, and Fathers M. F. A. Blanchet, Constantine Scollan and G. V. Fourmond. There was no church in the district previous to the summer of 1873 when the first house and chapel was established 21 miles up the Elbow River from Calgary on the north side on what is now the farm of Mr. Charles Mickle, and about half a mile directly across the river from Mr. Joe Robinson's farm, which one passes on the way to Bragg Creek, 20 miles from Calgary.

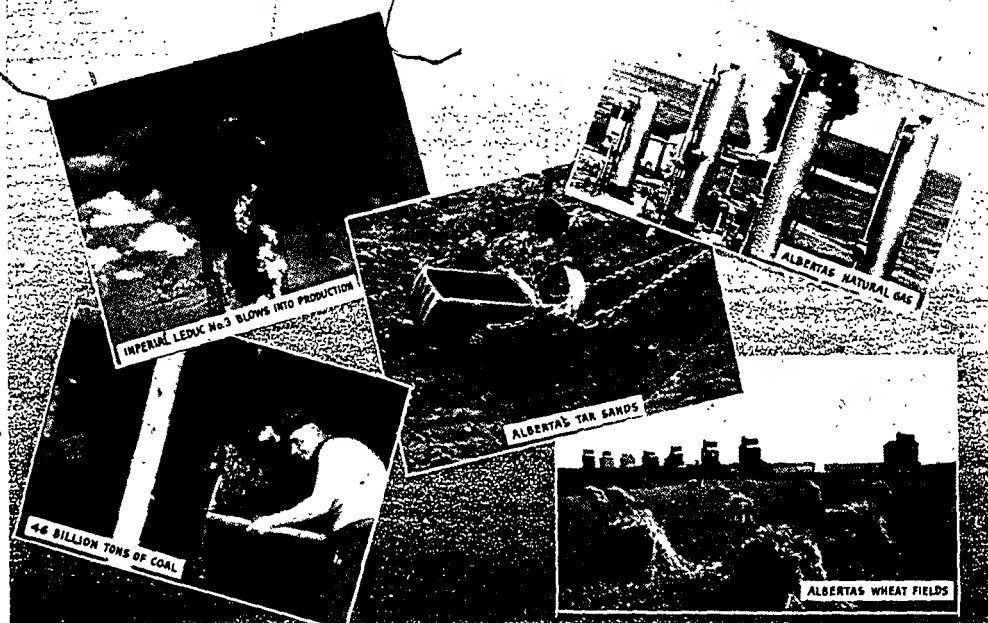
Fathers C. Scollan and L. Doucet, together with two lay brothers are credited with being the first priests and brothers to establish a church on the spot, now marked by a cairn erected in 1939, and unveiled and blessed by His Excellency Most Rev. F. P. Carroll, D.D., Bishop of Calgary, on August 20th, 1939, in the presence of about 800 people. This church was erected for the Indians who used to pass the winter months at this spot. Two years later in the summer of 1875, the Rev. L. Doucet chose to pitch his tent near the junction of the Bow and Elbow Rivers where Calgary saw its beginning that same summer with the coming of the Northwest Mounted Police. When

(Continued on Page Six)

*THIS is our FRONT yard..*



*THIS is our BACK yard*



*TAKEN TOGETHER....*

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CITY OF CALGARY

Photo by H. Pollard

**C**ALGARY . . . city of sunshine, city of promise as a glorious future benignly bestows new blessings upon this, her metropolitan pride of the foothills. Calgary . . . where the prairies roll their carpets to the open doors of the Rockies . . . where each day unfurls new banners of warm, sunny weather. Calgary, with its population of one hundred thousand citizens, proud in their heritage, opens its arms to new industries, new achievements, a new and even greater importance in the development of Canada's West. Calgary, where pride in the past shakes hands with the future. Calgary . . . a city of which our great Dominion may well be proud as each day sees yet another step taken in Calgary's contribution to Canada, to continent . . . to Empire . . . a city reflecting the true spirit of Western hospitality in its typical words:

"Welcome to Calgary, stranger! Make yourself at HOME!"

J. C. WATSON  
Mayor

J. M. MILLER  
City Clerk



**Father Lacombe**

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Calgary**

*(Continued from page three)*

they came to the edge of the north hill overlooking the valley they saw Father Doucet's tent. Upon their arrival they found the tent occupied by the priest and a young Indian boy companion. Father Doucet is said to have been the first white man to occupy the site where Calgary now stands—a flourishing city of 100,000 inhabitants. The church up the Elbow River was in use for about two years.

The first Catholic Church in Calgary was built in the fall of 1875 by Fathers Doucet and Scollan on the south side of the hill immediately south of where the Holy Cross Hospital now stands. It was in use for about six years before a second church was erected in East Calgary on the east side of the Elbow River where the city's population first settled. When the Canadian Pacific Railway came in 1883 and located its station on the present site then the growth of the city or town as it might be termed at that time, moved to the west side of the river also and the church was brought across the river and located on what is now 18th Ave. between 1st and 2nd streets west, but was known then as St. Joseph's Street. This church building remained there until 1927, although not used as a church since the opening of the present St. Mary's Cathedral on December 8th, 1889.

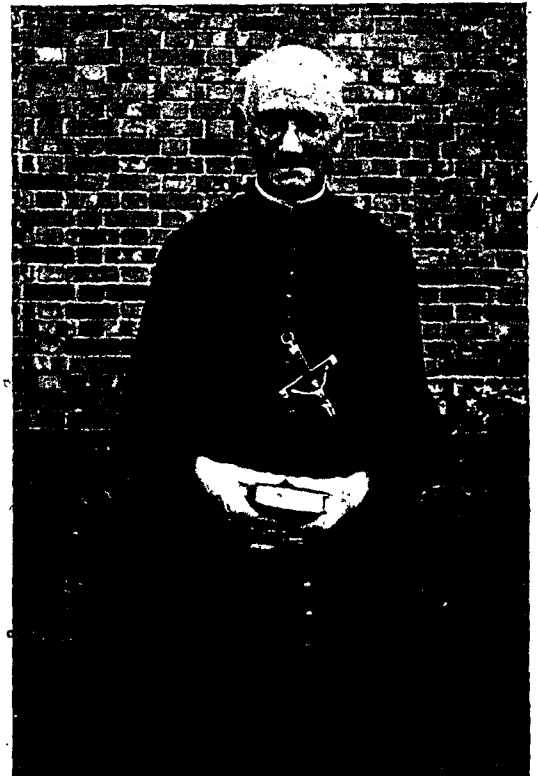
In 1883 a two-storey building, a chapel on the second floor and living quarters for the priests, was erected on the site where the Sacred Heart Convent's new wing now stands. It served as such for only two years for when the Sisters of the Faithful Companions of Jesus were brought to Calgary in 1885 Father Lacombe gave them the priest's house and chapel

for their first convent and the priests built another home for themselves where St. Mary's rectory stands. This building is still standing and forms a part of the old Oblate rectory at 221 18th Ave. West, now in use as a parish hall.

The present St. Mary's Cathedral had its beginning in the fall of 1887, when the foundations were laid. It took two years before the church was completed for use. It was opened and dedicated in honour of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on December 8, 1889. The cornerstone was laid and blessed by Bishop Grandin, O.M.I., assisted by the Rev. Fathers H. Leduc, O.M.I., the first pastor, and A. Andre, O.M.I., on the Feast of Pentecost, June 9, 1889. It has been in use ever since as the principal church of the city. When the diocese of Calgary was established on November 30, 1912, St. Mary's became the cathedral church. St. Mary's was the only Catholic church in Calgary up to 1910. During this year the Sacred Heart Parish in West Calgary, and St. Anne's parish in East Calgary were established. The North Hill district got its first church in the Ukrainian church in 1912, and St. Joseph's in 1914.

In 1929, the parish of St. Angela in the Riverside district was established by Bishop J. T. Kidd, D.D. and Rev. N. R. Anderson was put in charge. Mass was said in the St. Angela school until December, 1929 when the Redemptorist Fathers took over the parish and built the present church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. The parish is still in charge of the Redemptorist Fathers.

In the Riverside district there is also the Ukrainian Church of St. Stephen, situated at 1st Ave. and 6th St. N.E. It was first erected on the north hill and moved to its present location in 1929. The present pastor is Rev. N. J. Drohomiresky.



**Father Doucet**

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MOUNT EISENHOWER. (Half way between Banff and Lake Louise)

Photo by H. Pollard

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St. John's in Hillhurst district was the next parish to be established by Bishop Kidd in 1930. The Ste. Famille (French) Church on 5th St. and 18th Ave. West was opened by Bishop P. J. Monahan for the French people of the city in 1933. The St. Francis Chapel on 211 6th Ave. E., was opened by Bishop Kidd in the early part of the summer of 1929. The last church to be opened within the confines of Calgary was opened in Bowness by Bishop F. P. Carroll, D.D., on August 8, 1948, with the title of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Along with the growth and development of the religious life of the city of Calgary we must not overlook the religious communities of sisters. As already mentioned the Sisters Faithful Companions of Jesus came to Calgary in 1885. They opened the first Catholic School in Calgary in that same year and

have now for over 60 years supplied a group of excellent teachers for the Catholic children of the city and maintained a boarding school (Sacred Heart Convent) for girls during all that period. St. Mary's Girls School has been under their care and guidance since its establishment in 1910. Next in the order of time came the Grey Nuns to establish the Holy Cross Hospital. They arrived in Calgary on January 30, 1891. Their first hospital was erected on St. Joseph's Street, now 18th Ave. West, and is now in use as a part of the parish hall. This was soon abandoned for a larger and better equipped building, built by these same nuns in 1892, and it forms part of the present Holy Cross Hospital. The value of the good work that has been accomplished by these good hospital sisters during the past 57 years for the people of Calgary and surrounding district is immeasurable. The present hospital has over 300 beds and is one of



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For six years, 1913-1919, the Ursulines de Chavagnes taught in the Sacred Heart School. In 1921 the present Ursuline Sisters from Chatham, Ontario, came to Calgary and have been teaching in Holy Angels and Sacred Heart Schools up to the present time. In Calgary there are at present (August, 1948) nine Latin rite churches and one Ruthenian rite (for the Ukrainian people). The Catholic population of the city is about 12,000.

The St. Mary's Boys' School has been conducted by the Basilian Fathers of Toronto since September, 1933.

Calgary is 830 miles west of Winnipeg on the main line of the C.P.R.

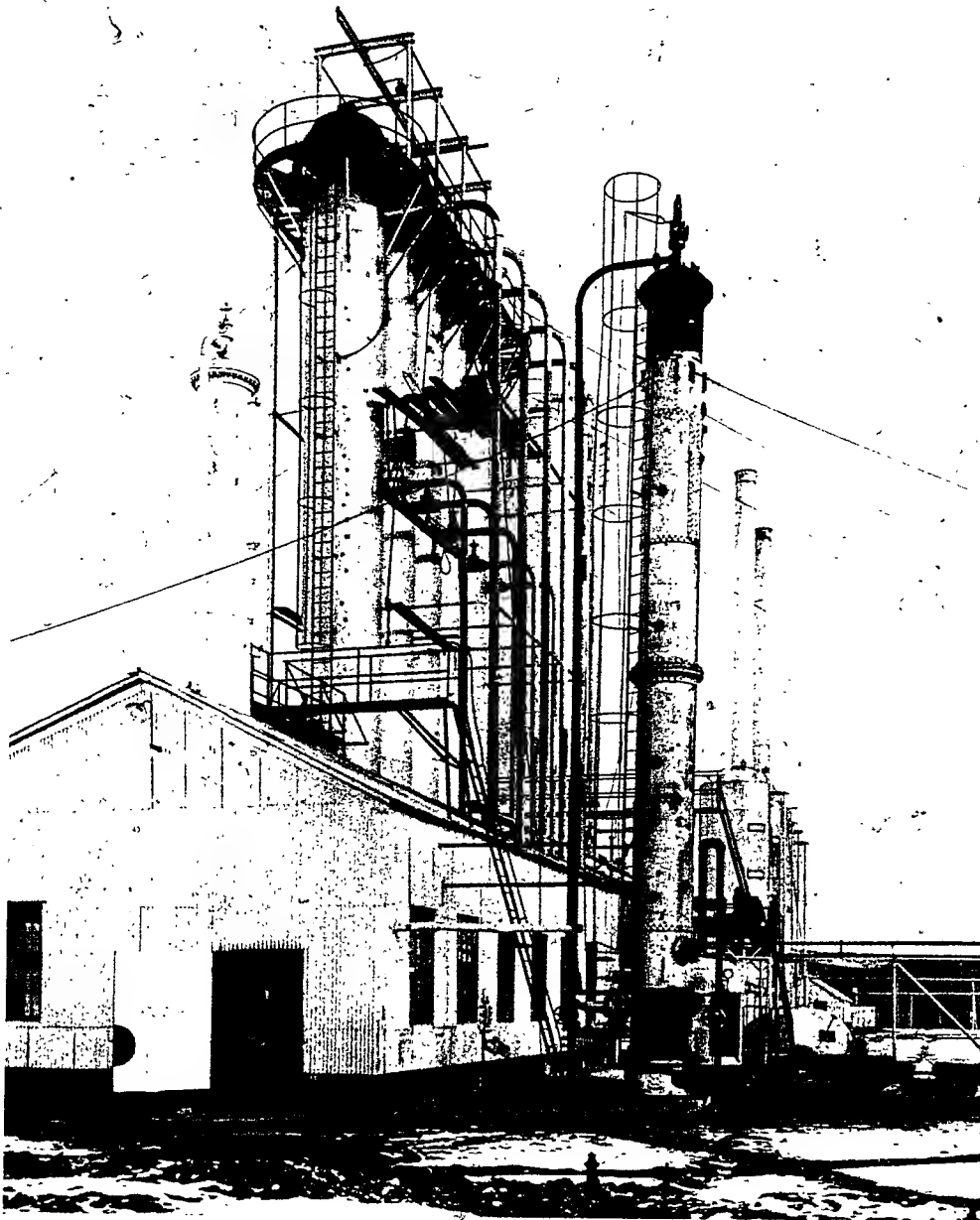
#### Missionaries and Parish Priests in the Calgary District from 1865 to 1948

##### St. Mary's District

Rev. A. Lacombe, O.M.I., 1865-1873;  
Rev. C. Scollen, O.M.I., 1873.  
Rev. G. V. Fourmond, O.M.I., 1873-1874.  
Rev. Bonald, O.M.I., 1874-1875.  
Rev. C. Scollen, O.M.I., 1875-1881.  
Rev. E. M. Legal, O.M.I., 1882.  
Rev. M. F. Claude, O.M.I., 1882-1885.  
Rev. H. Leduc, O.M.I., 1886-1887.  
Rev. A. Lacombe, O.M.I., 1887.

##### St. Mary's Parish

Rev. H. Leduc, O.M.I., 1887-1892.  
Rev. J. Lestanc, O.M.I., 1892-1897.  
Rev. A. Lacombe, O.M.I., 1897-1898.  
Rev. L. Fouquet, O.M.I., 1898-1899.



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**GAS SCRUBBING PLANT**

Photo by H. Pollard

**(St. Mary's Parish, continued)**

Rev. A. Lemarchand, O.M.I., 1899-1902  
 Rev. A. Lacombe, O.M.I., 1902-1903.  
 Rev. J. A. Fitzpatrick, O.M.I., 1903-1904.  
 Rev. A. Lemarchand, O.M.I., 1904-1907  
 Rev. A. Jan, O.M.I., 1907-1909.  
 Rev. L. V. Lewis, O.M.I., 1909-1912.  
 Rev. R. Dalton, O.M.I., 1912-1913.  
 Rev. A. B. Macdonald, 1913-1914.  
 Rev. A. Newman, 1914-1923.  
 Rev. J. Moriarity, 1923-1924.  
 Rev. J. S. Smith, 1924-1948.

**Sacred Heart**

Rev. E. Nelz, O.M.I., 1911.  
 Rev. A. Naessens, O.M.I., 1911-1914.

Rev. A. Jan, O.M.I., 1914-1915  
 Rt. Rev. A. J. Hetherington, AP. V.G., 1915-48.

**St. Anne's**

Rev. Forget, S.M.T., 1910-1912.  
 Rev. E. Ciron, S.M.T., 1914-1916.  
 Rev. W. E. Cameron, 1916-1919.  
 Rev. E. J. Carew, 1919.  
 Rev. J. S. Smith, 1919-1924.  
 Rev. A. E. Rouleau, 1924-1932.  
 Rev. Wm. R. Dargon, 1932-1939.  
 Rev. E. L. Doyle, 1939-1948.

**St. Joseph's**

Rev. A. J. Hetherington, 1914-1915.  
 Rev. M. F. Fitzpatrick, 1915-1916.  
 Rev. F. J. O'Brien, 1916-1946.  
 Rev. N. R. Anderson, 1946-1948.

## BUILDING HEALTHY MINDS IN HEALTHY BODIES

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Started in England in 1907, Scouting came to Canada in 1908. There were 98,477 Scouts in Canada at the end of 1946. Scouts in Alberta in 1947 totalled 6,102.

Pictured on the left is the 27th Calgary Troop at Camp Chelan on the Ghost River. The healthful activities of camping build alertness, resourcefulness and health.

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## SCOUTING

Photo by Lorne Burkell

### Our Lady of Perpetual Help (St. Angela)

Rev. N. R. Anderson, 1926-1929.  
Rev. I. Shalla, C.S.S.R., 1929-1930.  
Rev. E. Walsh, C.S.S.R., 1931-1933.  
Rev. J. B. Collins, C.S.S.R., 1934-1936.  
Rev. M. McIsaac, C.S.S.R., 1936-1939.  
Rev. G. Ehman, C.S.S.R., 1940-1944.  
Rev. N. Killingsworth, C.S.S.R., 1945-1948.

### St. John's

Rev. T. H. Green, 1931-1934.  
Rev. R. J. Donovan, 1934-1944.  
Rev. J. C. Lynett, 1944-1948.

### Ste. Famille

Rev. C. Beauregard, 1933-1936.  
Rev. G. E. Bourque, 1937-1939.  
Rev. J. B. O'Dea, 1940-1948.

### St. Francis

Rev. C. J. Clancy, 1930-1933.  
Rev. Joseph Racz, 1933-1934.  
Rev. P. Beaton, 1934-1938.  
Rev. C. J. Clancy, 1938-1948.

## PARISHES AND MISSIONS OUTSIDE OF CALGARY

While Calgary and district saw the beginning of the Catholic Church in the southern half of the Province of Alberta it was not long until missionary Oblate priests and later other missionary priests opened up new missions and parishes at points wherever souls were found to be administered to.

### Banff—1883-1948

As the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway pushed ahead to the Rockies the missionaries followed from Calgary on November 26, 1883. Father M. E. Claude, O.M.I., reached the end of the steel at a point called Holt City (Lake Louise) and on the morning of November 27, offered Holy Mass at a point in the vicinity of the "Great Divide." Assisting Father Claude for a short time in the vicinity of Silver City (now Castle Mountain or Mount Eisenhower) were Father Remas, O.M.I., a man of 60 years, and a Scotch secular priest, Father Fay, who later became famous as a successful missionary in British Columbia.



BANFF SPRINGS HOTEL

Photo by H. Pollard

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Father Foisy, now in March, 1885, took a turn in the mountains, to be followed by Father Doucet, whom, Father Leduc, the superior, had appointed to the missions of the Bow Pass.

Fathers Leduc and Doucet left Calgary at 11 p.m. on August 3, 1886, and reached Banff at four in the morning of August 4th.

The townsite of Banff which had been at the foot of Cascade Mountain in 1884, was transferred to its present position in 1886, and upon this new townsite at the south end of the Cascade Hotel Father Doucet offered the Holy Mass on the morning of August 4, 1886—the first Holy Mass to be offered on the present townsite of Banff.

During the ministrations of Father Blais between the years 1887-1889, the present church at Banff was built of logs. The construction of the church was undertaken in the summer of 1887 and was completed early in 1888, at a cost of \$800.

It was not until August 15, 1888, that the church was solemnly blessed by Father Leduc under the title of St. Mary of the Assumption. The High Mass was sung by Father Lacombe who "preached a good sermon" and took up a collection amounting to \$91, "truly a magnificent sum from the small Catholic population of 50 persons only," as Father Blais records. Thus Father Lacombe said the first Mass and preached the first sermon in this old church at Banff, which is probably the oldest church building still in use in the diocese of Calgary. Father Blais was transferred to Macleod in 1890, and was succeeded by Father Walter Comire, who ministered to the needs of the mountaineers between the years 1892-1896.

Father Comire remarks that "the church at Banff after only four years of use is in such a bad state of repair, that it must be repaired." So Brother Bowes was called to Banff, and it was he who covered the interior with wood planks, and the exterior with drop siding, during the month of October,

## HARNESSING THE ROCKIES TO THE NEEDS OF ALBERTA

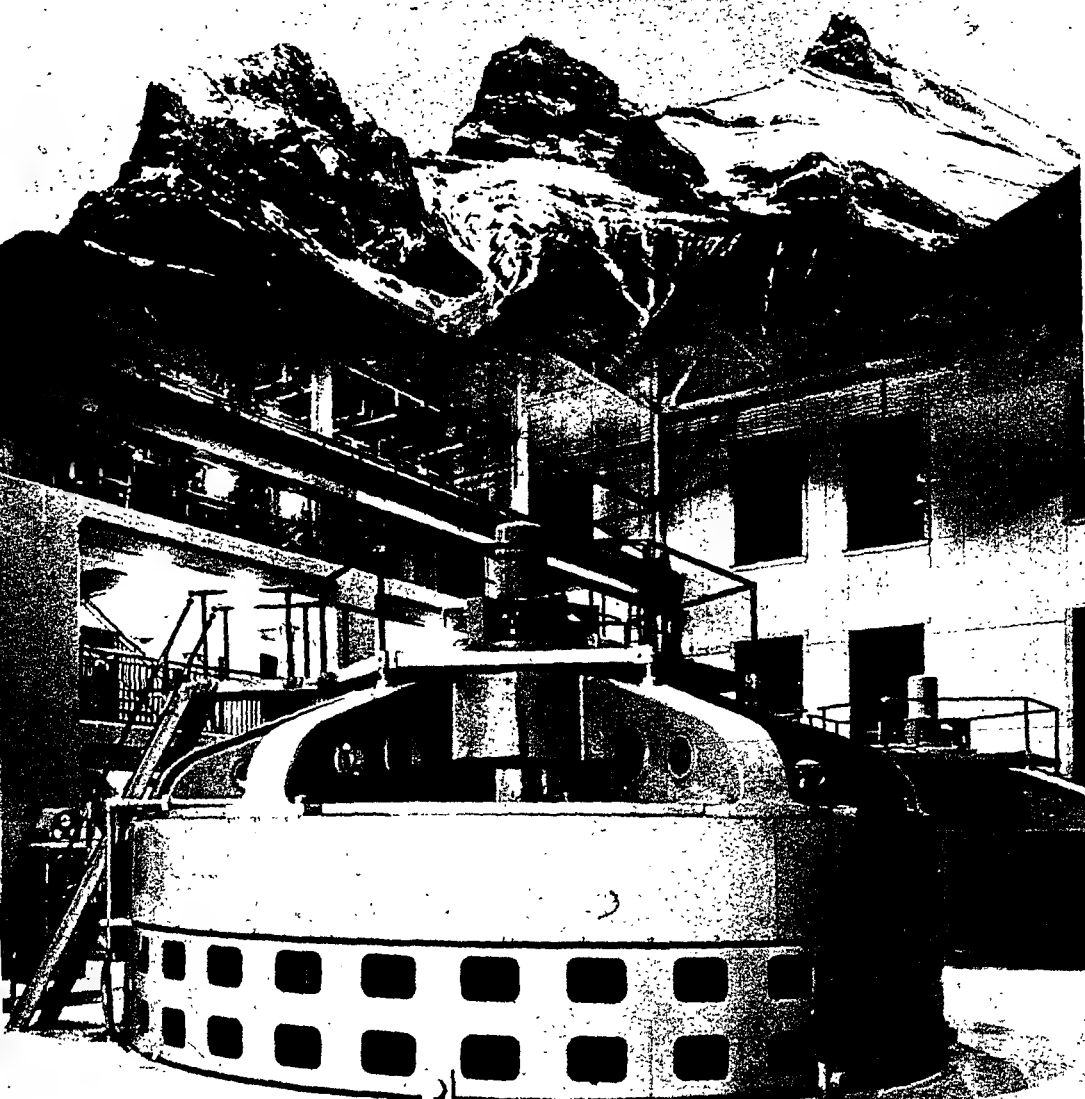
The towering Rockies of the Canadian West do more than act as a magnet attracting thousands of tourists from all over the world to Alberta, for among their snow-capped peaks are born the myriad rushing torrents that join and form rivers rich in potential sources of hydro power.

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Photo by H. Pollard



1892. All that was needed now was a bell cote and a bell. This Father Comire was able to procure with the help of some good friends who augmented the collection he had made for this purpose. The day chosen for the blessing, Sunday, September 15, 1895, was a magnificent day and a most solemn fete celebrated. The blessing was performed by Bishop Grandin, O.M.I., Bishop of St. Albert (whose cause for beatification is already before the Roman Curia), assisted by Father Comire, Father Lestanc, L'Abbe Morin, priest in charge of colonization, and Canon Dupuis of Montreal. Solemn High Mass was offered at 10:30 a.m., and the sermon was preached by Father Lestanc. "This little chapel," says the report "was filled with people, and at the end of the ceremony, each one approached to sound the bell, and deposit an offering which amounted to \$40."

At the age of 65 years in 1896 Father Fouquet was given charge of the missions of the Bow Valley

to which he attended with saintly care (he is recalled as a saint by the real oldtimers) until 1900, when Father Seltmann became priest in charge. Because Banff was growing in importance as a summer resort it was decided that a priest should reside there, accordingly in 1905 Father Seltmann built the small house at a cost of \$1,200 and took up residence at Banff. He was followed by Father Hermes who gave place in 1912 to Father L. V. Lewis who was transferred from St. Mary's at Calgary, and who in turn was replaced by his predecessor Father Hermes who remained off and on until 1921, when he was relieved by the diocesan clergy, Father T. H. Greene and Father P. Murphy. Father John Osborne was appointed parish priest in 1922 and continued until 1930 when he was retired due to ill health and replaced by Father Moriarty who died in 1935. Father F. Fitzpatrick filled in for a few months and in August, 1936, Father R. J. McGuinness was appointed parish priest and is still in charge.

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## **CHURCH OF THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL**

**Peigan Indian Reserve, Brocket, Alta.**

**1873-1948**

The Peigan Indians, a tribe of the family of the Blackfeet Indians, were visited by the priest as early as 1873 as appears on the record of baptisms kept at the parish, but it was not until 1886 that the first mission was established after the Indians had accepted the Treaty with the government and decided to live on the land allotted them. This first mission was built by Reverend Father Emile Legal, O.M.I. who became later Bishop of St. Albert and first Archbishop of Edmonton.

The buildings were erected west of the Old Man river where the Porcupine Hills slope down towards the river, and consisted of a church, a residence for the priest, and a school for the Indian children which opened with an attendance of 38 pupils. The church was placed under the patronage of the "Conversion of St. Paul," the feast celebrated on the 25th of January.

In 1926 the Department of Indian Affairs having decided to build a new residential school picked a new location six miles east of the Brocket Station on the east side of the Old Man River and so the new church had to be erected alongside of the new school. It was opened in the spring of 1927.

Many priests have succeeded one another on this mission, all Oblates of Mary Immaculate: Rev. Father Emile Legal, Rev. Father L. Doucet, Rev. Fr. Foisy, who after a few years entered the Trappist Order at Oka where he died a few years ago, Rev. Fr. Danis, Rev. Fr. Rioux, Rev. Fr. Salaun, Rev. Fr. Lepine, Rev. Fr. LeVern and Rev. Fr. Eugene Ruaux who today is the parish priest of the church of the "Conversion of St. Paul."

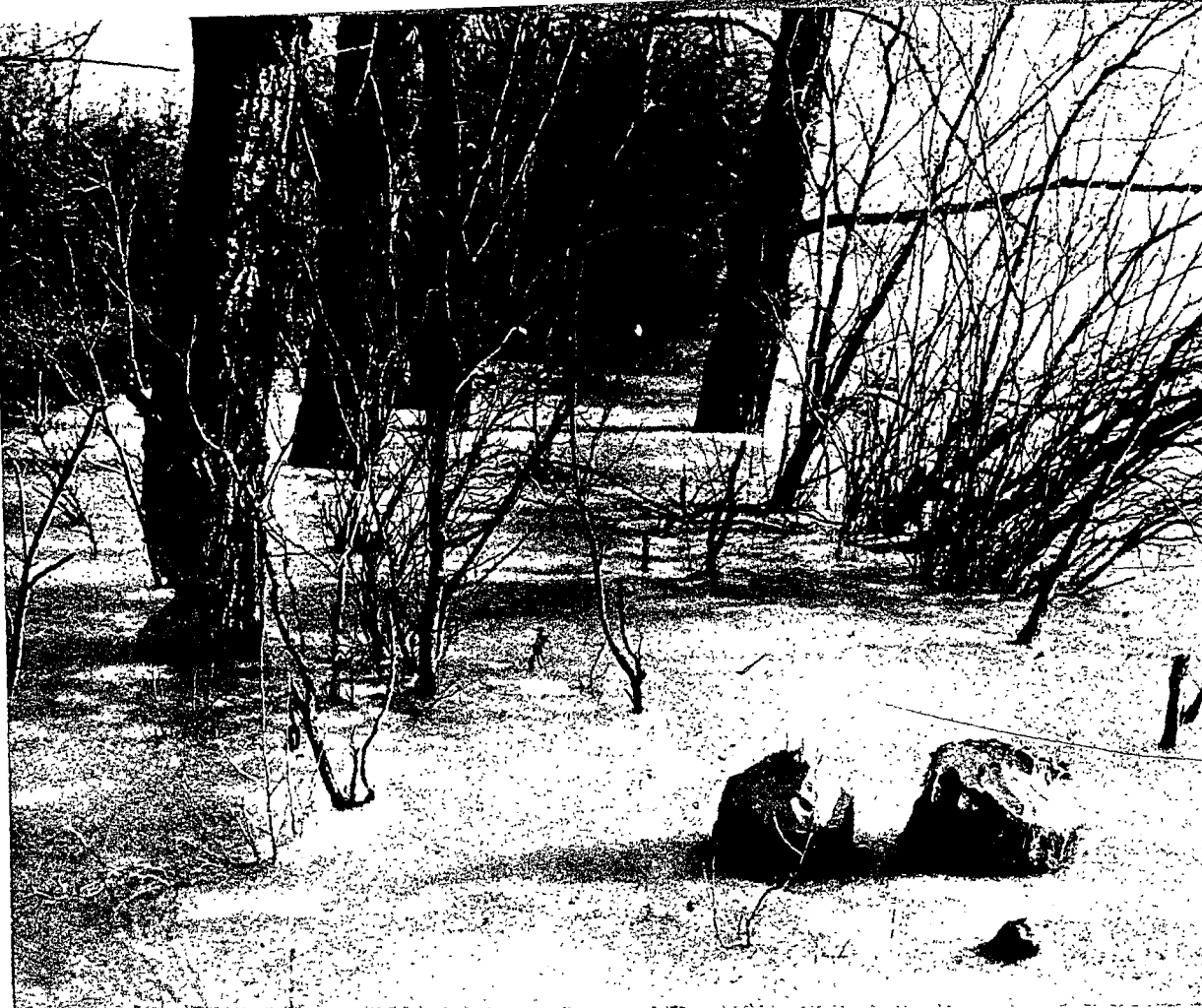
The population of the parish is 660 of whom there are 420 Catholics. The district beginning in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, at the entrance to the Crow's Nest Pass, is a farming and ranching district. The extent of the territory given to the Indians is 95,000 acres of land and the Indians are beginning to learn how to make it produce. They are gradually realizing the necessity of working and of becoming good practical Catholics and conscientious citizens of Canada.

## **LETHBRIDGE**

**1875-1948**

Contemporary with the missionary activities in and around the Calgary district similar activities were carried on in the Lethbridge district. The first priest on record to minister in this area was Rev. Constantine Scollen, O.M.I., who administered baptism at Fort Hamilton, at the confluence of St. Mary's and





"THE  
BUSY  
BEAVER"

Photo by  
H. Pollard

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the Old Man Rivers, September 2, 1873. Again in 1875, at Fort Hamilton Father Scollen baptized two children—names Fitzpatrick and Gladstone.

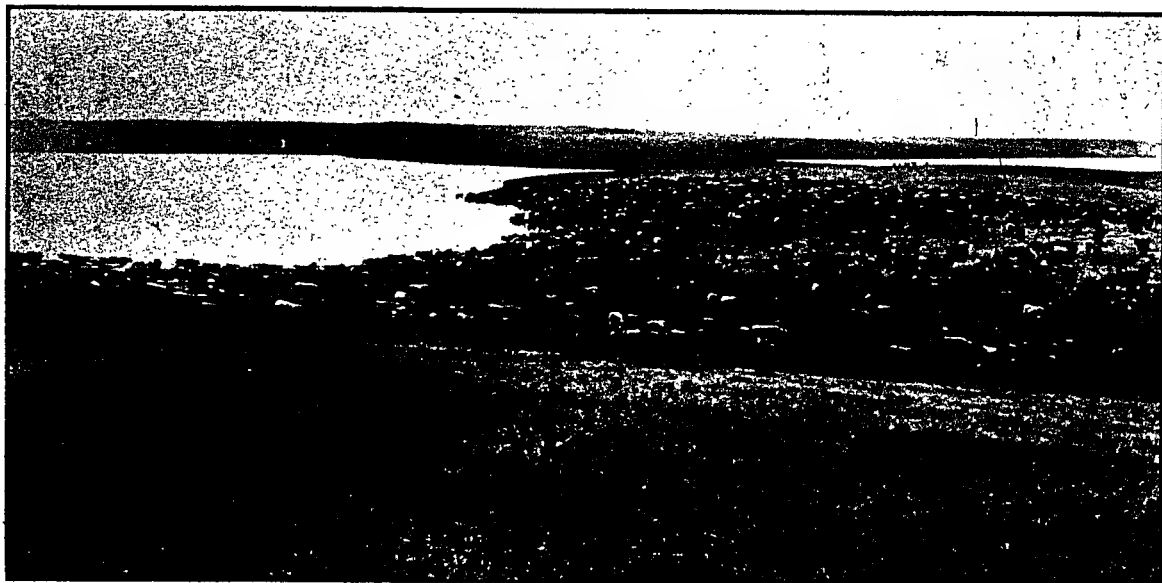
Lethbridge, because it first became a coal mining centre, was known as Coalbank. In 1884 Father Leonard Van Tighem, O.M.I. (probably from Macleod) was called to visit a Mr. Sheron, seriously ill at Coalbank. He found here a number of Catholics whom he decided to care for. For the next two years he visited Coalbank once a month. In 1886 the little congregation decided to build a church. They built the stone church, completed in 1887, which stands on 8th St. S. opposite the C.P.R. station and which is used today as a parish hall. In 1888 Father Van Tighem took up residence in Coalbank which about this time became Lethbridge. Father Van Tighem ministered to this growing centre from 1888 to 1909 and the church became a centre for missionaries who served the entire area. On January 10th, 1910,

Bishop Legal made Lethbridge a canonically erected parish. In 1889 property near the Lethbridge mining area on the outskirts of the city was purchased and a small church erected thereon in 1909, but this was later abandoned.

Property on 4th Ave. and 10th St. S. was bought in 1910 and the present St. Patrick's basement church was erected in 1912-1913. The completion of this church is at present under consideration.

Lethbridge has been in charge of priests of the Oblate order since its inception and besides those already mentioned the following have had charge of the parish: Fathers L. H. Rosenthal, O.M.I., James F. McCaffery, O.M.I., Michael Murphy, O.M.I., Ambrose Madden, O.M.I., J. Mullaney, O.M.I., and the present pastor Rev. R. Griffin, O.M.I. North Lethbridge is served from St. Patrick, Mass being said in St. Basil's School on Sundays. There is also in North





*Round-up*

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Lethbridge a Ruthenian Church built in 1922 with the title of Sts. Peter and Paul. The present pastor is Rev. A. Chorouzy. In addition to the above-named churches and clergy Lethbridge is blessed with religious communities of women and a Catholic hospital. The Sisters Faithful Companions of Jesus opened their convent in 1891 and have taught in their own convent school and the parish school since that opening. At present a new convent is under construction in south-east Lethbridge. The Sisters of St. Martha from Antigonish, N.S., in 1930 built and opened St. Michael's Hospital in Lethbridge and since 1933 have taught in St. Basil's School in North Lethbridge.

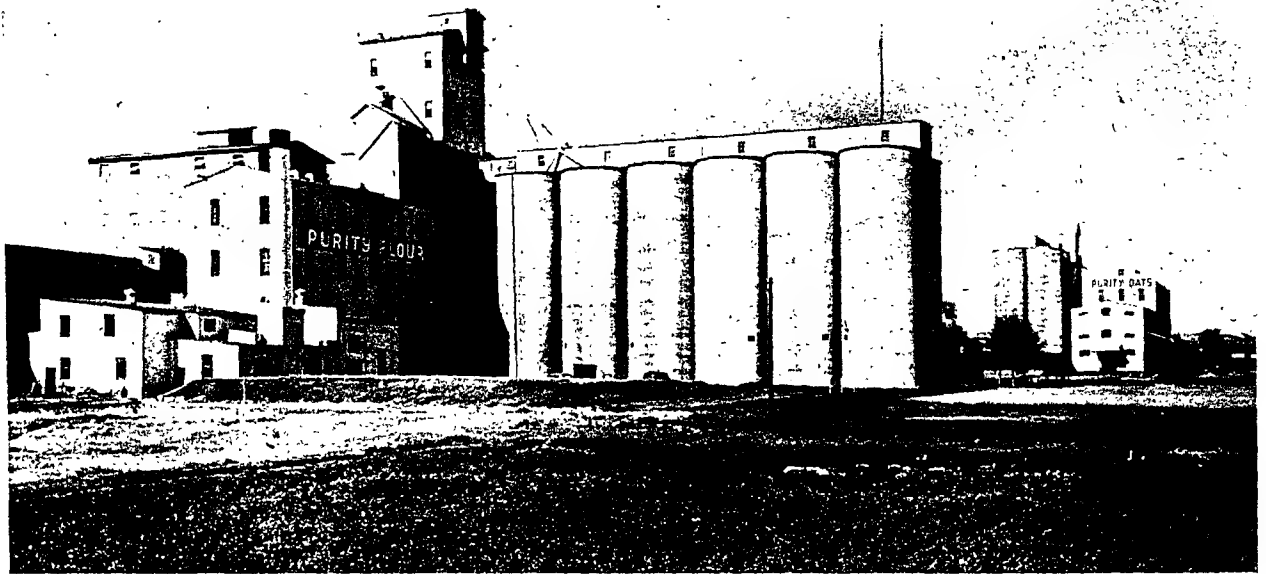
Lethbridge itself is a smart and flourishing city of 17,000 inhabitants situated on the Old Man River 126 miles south-east of Calgary and 66 miles north of the United States boundary. It is a coal mining

centre and in the midst of a great farming area consisting principally of wheat and sugar beets.

From Lethbridge Rev. John Duplani, O.M.I., serves Raymond, Sacred Heart Church, New Dayton, and Coaldale.

## BLACKFOOT CROSSING (CLUNY) 1882-1948

One of the oldest missions in the Diocese of Calgary is that of the Indian Mission and School at Cluny, formerly known as Blackfoot Crossing. Some sixty miles east of Calgary on the main line of the C.P.R. between Medicine Hat and Calgary, this mission was established by the earliest of the Oblate Missionary Fathers, including Fathers A. Lacombe and C. Scollen in 1882. The Blackfeet and these two priests were friendly and had known each other for about ten years: Fr. Lacombe and Fr. Scollen



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were instrumental in persuading these Indians to sign the treaty with the government in 1877. The Sisters of Providence of Montreal came to the mission at the combined request of Father Lacombe and Bishop Grandin in the year 1899. The first school and church were built on the Bow River bank about one mile away from the present school and church. The Oblate Fathers and the Sisters of Providence have had this mission and school under their charge since its foundation. Among the fathers in charge in the early years were Fathers Levern, now at Blood Reserve, Fr. Doucet and Fr. J. Riou who is still at the Cluny Mission. Since 1940 the priests in charge have been Fathers F. Forestier, O.M.I., 1941-1943; Fr. Jos. LeBras, O.M.I., 1943-1945, Fr. A. Tetrault, O.M.I., Fr. D. Dubuc, O.M.I. and Fr. A. Charron, O.M.I., the present superior. While the reserve and mission is principally for the Indians, yet there is also provision made for the Catholic people of Cluny to attend Mass on Sunday.

#### **MACLEOD 1882-1948**

Macleod is situated on the south bank of the Old Man River 100 miles south of Calgary and 35 miles west of Lethbridge.

In 1882, a church was built on the Peigan Reserve, west of Macleod and some months later a priest's house was erected at Macleod. The first priests to take up residence in the district were Father Legal (who afterwards became Archbishop Legal) and Fr. A. Lacombe. The records of the church show the names of the early pastors and the corresponding

dates of their pastoral appointments: 1883, E. Legal, O.M.I.; 1884, L. Van Tighem; 1888, E. Gravel; 1889, J. Blais; 1892, H. L. Leduc; 1896, L. Lebre; 1902, L. J. Danis; 1905, Fr. McQuaid; 1907, J. L. Salaun; 1908, C. Vanderdale; 1909, A. Blanchet; 1913, Jos. Paille; 1916, John Ryding; 1919, John Osborne; 1923, A. Rouleau; 1924, C. F. Ross; 1933, A. J. McGillivray.

The present Holy Cross Church was erected by Father Lebre, O.M.I., some fifty years ago. His name is inscribed upon two beautiful stained glass windows, dedicated to his memory, one by his assistant Father Davis, the other by a parishioner.

From the church records it appears that Holy Cross parish was established by Bishop Grandin who administered the sacrament of confirmation in Macleod on September 28, 1885. The parish with its missions of Ardenville and Porcupine Hills containing about 350 souls extends from Granum on the north to the Blood Reserve on the south and from the Rocky Mountain Forest Reserve on the west to the junction of the Old Man and the Belly Rivers near the town of Monarch on the east covering from 1,200 to 1,500 square miles.

The town of Macleod has a population of 1,700 inhabitants and the surrounding district is devoted mainly to farming and ranching.

#### **CANMORE, ALBERTA 1883-1948**

Canmore is a coal mining town on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway between Calgary and Banff, 70 miles west of Calgary.



MAINTENANCE OF THE LAW

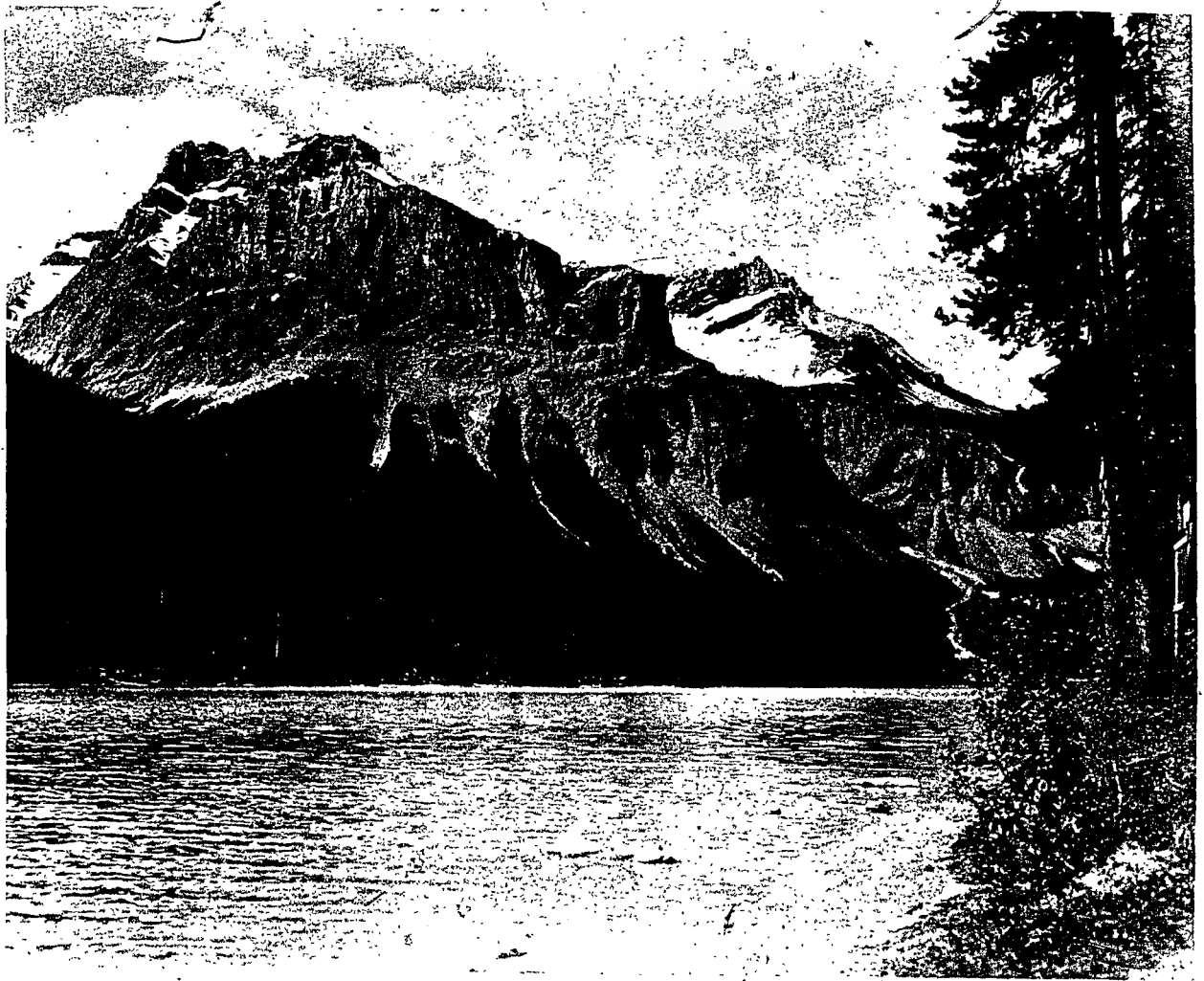
H. Pollard Photo

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In 1883 as the railway construction workmen reached the spot where Canmore lies alongside the Bow River and nestled at the base of the Three Sisters, prominent mountain peaks of the Canadian Rockies, they chose to establish here a divisional point to which they gave the name Canmore. This is a Gaelic word meaning "Big Head" and may refer to one of the mountains, or more probably, the town was named after the Scottish King, Malcolm Canmore, 1024-1050, who was the husband of St. Margaret of Scotland (Father Holland's History of Canmore).

Father Claude, O.M.I., from the mission centre at Calgary was the first priest to administer to the spiritual needs of the newly established camp at Can-

more. He arrived there, September 22, 1883. From this time on for 10 years the station was visited at regular intervals by the missionary fathers from Calgary, among whom besides Father Claude were Fathers L. Doucet, Foisy, Blais and B. Desroches, up till 1892 when Father Walter Comire came to Canmore and built the first church there in 1893. It was on September 20th of that year that Father Comire and two lay Oblate brothers, Bowes and Brochart, began the construction of the Sacred Heart Church. Catholics of the town contributed very generously of their resources and labour and the church was completed and free of debt by October 21st of that same year.



EMERALD LAKE

Photo by H. Pollard

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The archives of the Oblate Fathers contain the following account of the opening:

"The blessing took place Sunday, November 19 by Father Lestanc, assisted by Father Comire. There was High Mass with beautiful music and many people present. In the evening there was a second reunion of parishioners proud of their charming little church."

A few months later Bishop Grandin came himself and blessed the new bell.

Father Comire remained in charge till June, 1896, when he was transferred to Onion Lake, Saskatchewan. Father Forquet succeeded Father Comire. Meanwhile the Polish-speaking Catholics became quite numerous. Bishop Grandin secured the help of two brothers, Revs. William and Albert Kulowy, who began visitation in the district. Sermons were preached in English, French, Italian and Polish. Father Louis Culerier, O.M.I., attended the missions for a while and later, January, 1900, was succeeded by Rev. Jules Seltmann, O.M.I., of Breslau, Germany, who took up residence in Cochrane and later in May, 1905, in Banff.

Canmore has as its missions Exshaw, Bankhead Kananaskis and Seebe.

Canmore and Missions has a Catholic population of about 300 souls scattered over a territory about 25 miles square.

**Bankhead**, a newly formed coal mining town about three miles out of Banff had its first Mass offered in that town January 29, 1905, in a large miners' hall. A church was erected there a few years later and served the town till 1927 when it was moved to Forest Lawn, five miles east of Calgary.

**Exshaw** came into existence in 1906 and is 10 miles east of Canmore on the C.P.R. line. Father Seltmann offered the first Mass there October 6, 1906. Construction on a church was begun in March, 1907, on property donated by the Canada Cement Co. Several interruptions prevented completion, which, however was accomplished in July only to encounter the greatest of all interruptions. The new church was blown down by a violent windstorm. Once more it was erected and on August 18 the first Mass was offered in it and a month later, September 18, 1907, Bishop Legal blessed it and dedicated it to St. Bernard.

In spite of a heavy snowstorm and extreme cold all the parishioners attended the dedication ceremonies and the blessing of the bell on that same day. Father Seltmann was transferred shortly afterwards to Spring Lake, Sask. He left Canmore and missions November 1, 1907.

Among the pastors who followed Father Seltmann were Rev. A. Sylla and Rev. H. Hermes. Father Sylla took residence in Canmore in October, 1908. He built a rectory with funds provided by the Oblate community in the fall of 1909, and completed the church at Bankhead. Father Hermes succeeded Father Sylla in 1915 and lived part of the time (summer months) in Banff and the winter months at the mission of Cochrane.

The first Diocesan priest in charge of Canmore was Rev. John Osborne in 1922-1930, followed by Father N. Burrell, 1930-1931; Father F. Stefanski, 1931-1936; Father N. Lebel, 1936-1938, and Father I. Leaver, 1938-1940. Rev. Bernard Holland, the present incumbent, was appointed pastor July, 1940.

### MEDICINE HAT 1883-1948

The beginning of St. Patrick's Parish, Medicine Hat, coincides with the building of the C.P.R. in 1883. At that time the settlement was visited by Oblate Fathers from Calgary who said Mass and held services along the line between Calgary and Medicine Hat. Among the clergy on record as having visited Medicine Hat and held services there were Fathers E. Claude, O.M.I. and L. Doucet, O.M.I.



ST. THERESA'S CONVENT, MEDICINE HAT  
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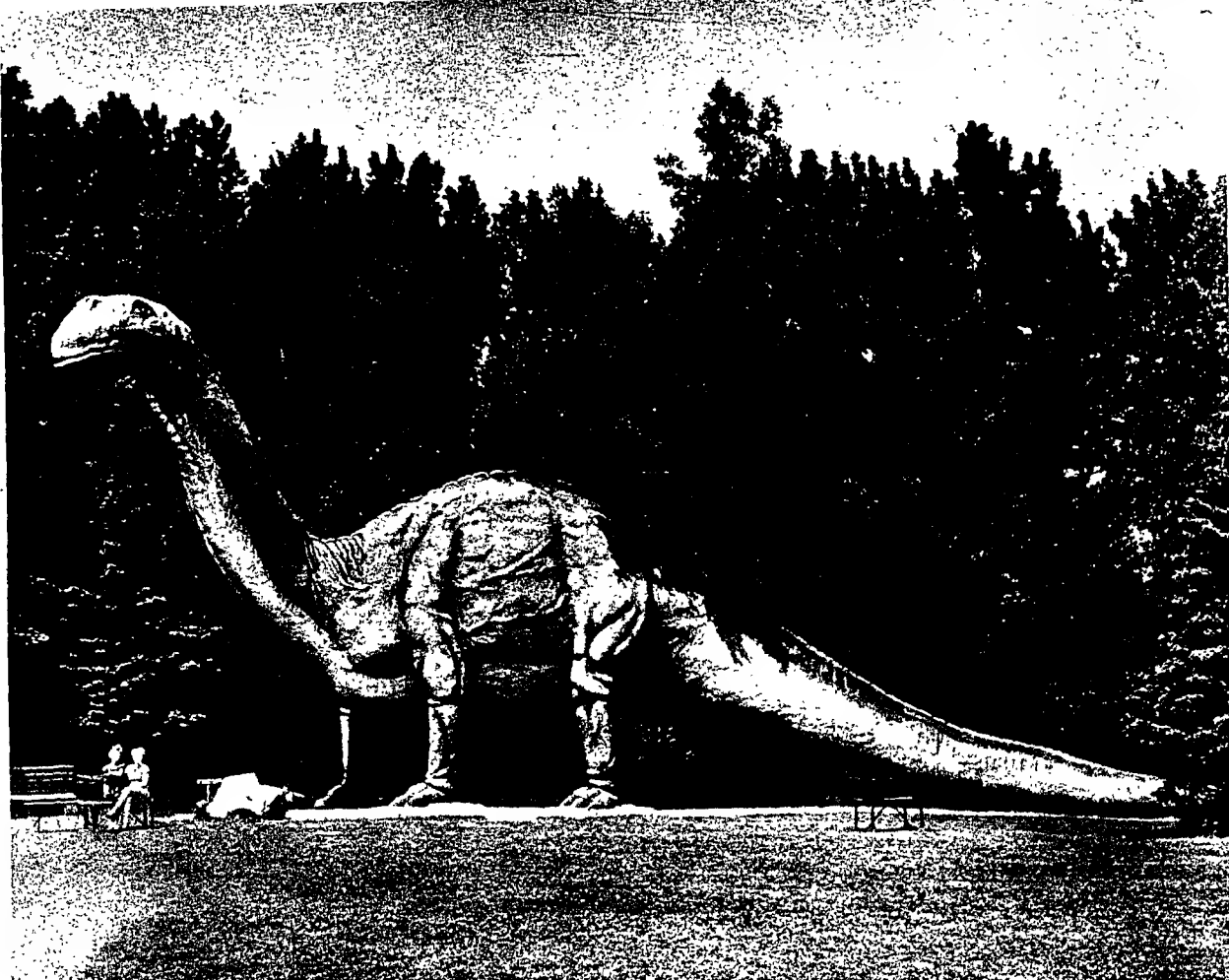


ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, MEDICINE HAT  
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As far as diocesan records show the first church erected in Medicine Hat was built by Father A. Therien, O.M.I., in 1887. That was on the north-west side of the South Saskatchewan River near the centre of the present city. This church served the Catholics of the city till 1914. Medicine Hat did not have a resident priest until after the turn of the present century. Besides the Fathers who served the Hat from Calgary in the first years there seem to have been Oblate fathers from Lethbridge who relieved the fathers from Calgary.

The baptismal register of St. Patrick's Parish begins on March 26, 1905, and during that year there were 28 baptisms in and around Medicine Hat and among the names of officiating clergy were R. W. Shulte, O.M.I., and Rev. Father A. Lacombe, who is said by Catherine Hughes in her book, "The Black-Robe Voyageur," p. 437, to have spent the summer of 1905 in parochial work at Medicine Hat.

In December, 1908, Medicine Hat parish was placed in charge of Rev. A. A. Bertrand, a secular priest from Valleyfield, Que. Father Bertrand remained for a little more than a year and Bishop Legal then (November, 1910) placed the parish and surrounding district under the care of the Congregation of the Missionary Fathers of the Sacred Heart, a community founded in 1854 in Issoudun, France. Rev. A. Cadieux of these missionaries was appointed superior and pastor, assisted by two other priests. Their ministry extended over a wide area from Maple Creek,



A DINOSAUR

Photo by Lorne Burkell

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Saskatchewan to Bassano in Alberta and from the State of Montana to Empress.

On November 30, 1912, the diocese of Calgary was separated from St. Albert, and on July 27, 1913, the first Bishop, the Most Rev. John T. McNally, D.D., assumed charge of Southern Alberta. Meanwhile the first church at Medicine Hat proved too small and shortly before the parish passed from the jurisdiction of Bishop Legal, Father Cadieux obtained permission to sell the property and erect a new church, the present church in Medicine Hat. The basement only was finished and opened for use in 1914, although the whole structure (constructed entirely of cement) had been completed exteriorly.

The Missionaries of the Sacred Heart withdrew from the parish and the diocese in 1916; and the Rev. M. F. Fitzpatrick, a priest from the diocese of Peterborough, Ont., was placed in charge in 1916. He laboured long and hard, reducing the debt on this magnificent church until in the late summer of 1927, Father Fitzpatrick died and was buried from St. Patrick's church. Rev. M. J. Fitzpatrick, nephew of the deceased Father Fitzpatrick ordained in Medicine Hat, January 16, 1921, by Bishop McNally, succeeded his uncle as parish priest till April, 1937. During his pastorate the interior of the upper church was completed and opened for use in 1932. With the completion of the church St. Patrick's Church became one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture, and one of the largest churches, in Southern Alberta.

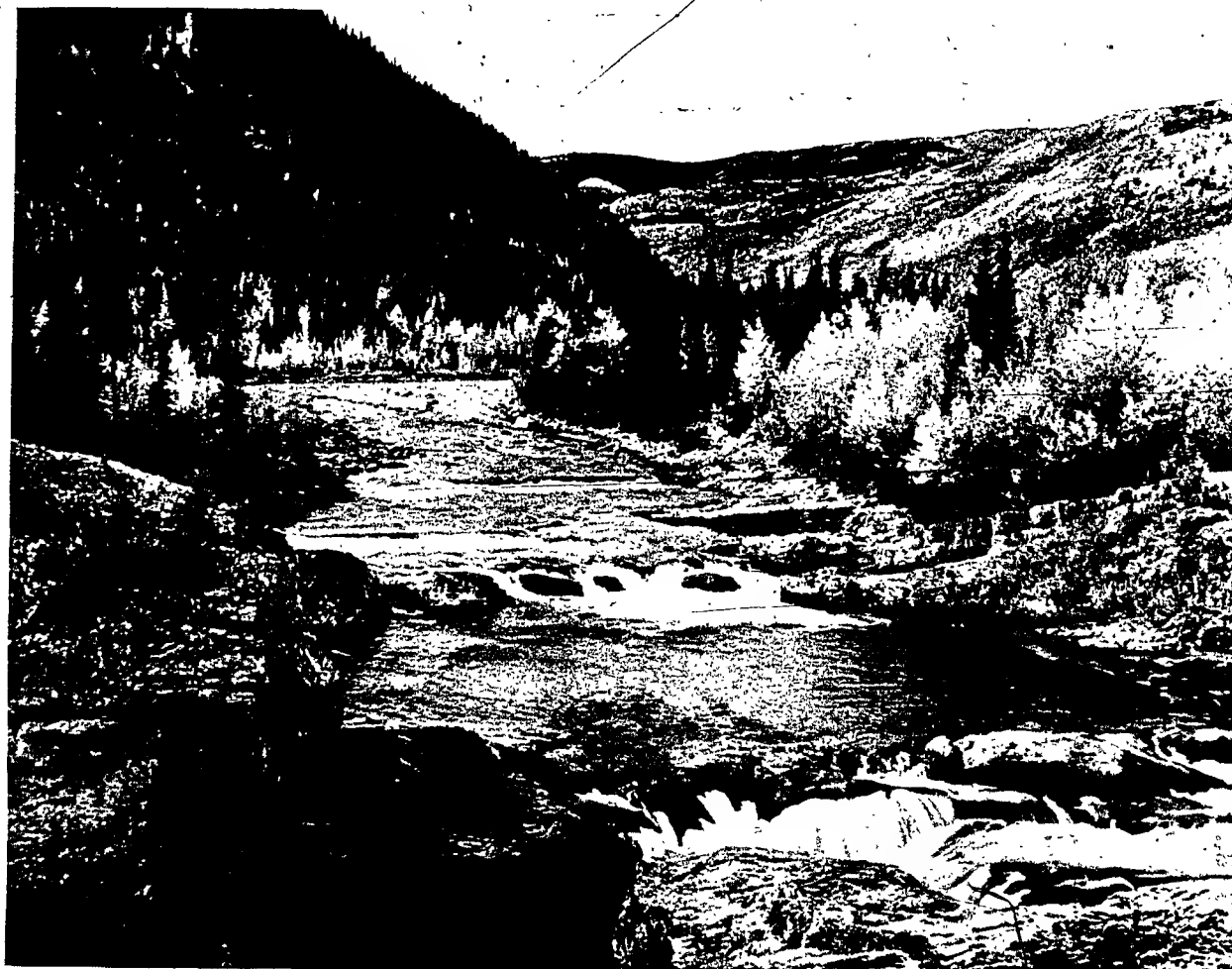
The present incumbent, the Rt. Rev. E. J. McCoy, was appointed parish priest in March, 1937, and dean of Medicine Hat, on April 22, 1937. Under Monsignor McCoy, the financial liabilities have been greatly reduced and St. Edmund's Chapel of ease was opened on January 25, 1942, and solemnly blessed by His Excellency Bishop F. P. Carroll, D.D., Bishop of Calgary.

Medicine Hat has a convent school, St. Theresa, run by the Sisters of Charity of St. Louis, who came to Medicine Hat in 1913 from Vannes, France. They also teach in the separate school in Medicine Hat.

Medicine Hat is on the main line of the C.P.R., 32 miles west of the Saskatchewan border and 197 miles east of Calgary. It is the centre of a large farming and ranching district and is famous for its natural gas wells, which have supplied natural gas to the city continuously since 1913. It is also an industrial centre of about 15,000 inhabitants. Its missions are Tide Lake, Redcliff and Irving, attended from St. Patrick's.

#### **OKOTOKS AND DISTRICT 1884-1948**

**Dunbow School**—The Indian Residential School at Dunbow was the first Catholic foundation in the Okotoks district. It was completed in 1884, and officially opened late that year by Bishop Grandin, O.M.I., of St. Albert, Alberta. Father Lacombe was its first principal, and the institution receives men-



ELBOW RIVER (Just above Elbow Falls)

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tion in Catherine Hughes' book on Father Lacombe. It was a public and high school for Indians from various reserves, and it had a famous hockey team that gained considerable recognition for Dunbow.

On January 17, 1885, the first baptism was recorded. It was performed by Father Lacombe. The entry records: "Vincent, ten month old son of Essamika and of Ammonis, of Blackfoot, Alberta." A first Communion class was held in 1885, and the Way of the Cross was erected that year in the college chapel. The Oblate Fathers were in charge, but the institution was under the Department of Indian Affairs.

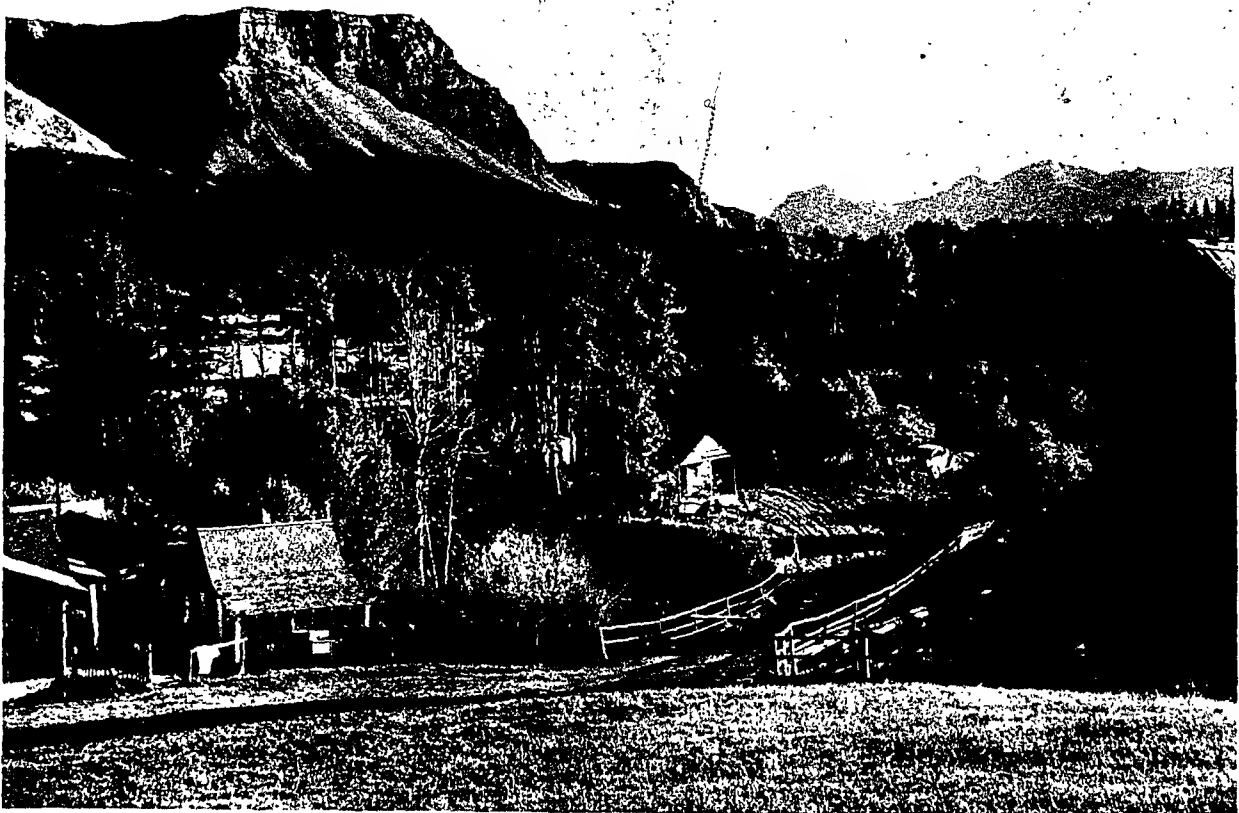
In 1886, Father Claude, O.M.I., was in charge, and Confirmation was administered by Bishop Grandin. In 1889, Bishop Legal, newly appointed Bishop of St. Albert, made his official visitation. In 1891, Father Naessens, O.M.I., was appointed principal. He was a Belgian priest, and is, at present, living at the Oblate House in St. Albert.

This school was situated seven miles from Okotoks, 8 miles east of Young's Corners, on the Macleod Trail. The buildings were dismantled by the Alberta government in 1936.

Brother Thomas Morkin, on the staff in 1895, now lives at St. Mary's Indian Residential School at Cardston. Father Riou, who was principal from 1908-1917, is now at the Blackfoot Reserve at Cluny.

The last records from the institution are dated 1922. The salvage operations supplied material for homes and other buildings in oilfields towns. An apartment in Little New York was assembled from this material.

**St. James Church, Okotoks**—St. James Church, Okotoks, was built in 1903-04, on land obtained from the Lineham estate. The rectory was built in 1918-19. For some years after the parish was established, it was served by the Oblate Fathers. Father Lestanc was parish priest in 1905. Later, Father Dubois took charge, and it was during his incumbency that the



BUCKHORN RANCH (near Pincher Creek)

Photo by Lorne Burkell

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rectory was built. He also purchased a farm, and built a house on it. The farm is situated just one mile south of the Windle farm on the Okotoks-Black Diamond highway. It was, at one time, planned to locate an Oblate Novitiate on this farm—but, for some reason, the plans miscarried. Father Dubois lived in this farm house for a number of years, and took charge of Nanton and Okotoks. It is beautifully located on the uplands and commands an ideal panoramic view of one of the most fertile farming districts in Alberta. Mr. Eugene Goettler owns this Father Dubois farm, and the house is still in good repair. The parish of Okotoks is served from Black Diamond, numbers 61 souls, and leases the rectory. The Windle, Gough, Meehan and Rooney (Mrs. Duncan Fraser) families are the only original names that survive today in the district.

Mr. George Calhoun was the contractor who built the church. The altar is an unusual piece of craftsmanship. It was all built by hand, and each panel is dovetailed—so that it can be dismantled in small sections. It has some unique hand carving, and is reputed to be the work of Father Dubois. It is a pity some benefactor did not provide better wood for such a master craftsman.

**ST. PATRICK'S PARISH, MIDNAPORE**

Midnapore, only 9 miles south of Calgary and but a small parish, nevertheless has an important place in our story of the church in the Diocese of Calgary. When Calgary was born in 1875, Midnapore (then known as Fish Creek) possessed one of the first Catholic families in the district, Mr. and Mrs. John Glen and three children. As other children came into the family they were baptized in Calgary by the first missionaries of the district, Fathers Doucet and Scollen. St. Patrick's Church at Midnapore was built in 1903 and had attached to it a residence for the priest. In 1910 the Father Lacombe Home was built by Fr. Lacombe as an orphanage and old folks home and placed in charge of the Sisters of Providence of Montreal. It was at the Home that Fr. A. Lacombe spent his declining years when worn out by his Missionary labours and died in November, 1916. R.I.P. Priests in charge besides Fr. Lacombe were Frs. Demeret, Chevellier and Remas, among the Oblates of Mary The Immaculate, and since 1916 Frs. Dougan, Smith, Moriarity, Rouleau and Fr. A. Newman, 1923-1948.



## ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH, PINCHER CREEK

1885-1948

The parish of St. Michael, Pincher Creek, was established by the Oblate Fathers—the first resident priest being Fr. A. Blanchet—in 1897.

Previous to this date, Oblate missionaries visited Pincher where they performed the sacred functions of their ministry. Frequently they came from Macleod, which outpost was founded at a much earlier date.

As early as 1869 Father A. Lacombe stopped in Pincher Creek while on his way to Montana. The oldest records available at St. Michael's rectory indicate that in 1889 Father Lacombe performed baptisms here.

These early missionaries were the following: 1889, Fr. A. Lacombe; Fr. M. J. Blais, Fr. E. Legal, later bishop of St. Albert; 1891, Fr. Donat Foisy; Fr. W. Comire and Fr. R. Remas; 1893, Fr. E. Gravel; 1895, Fr. L. Lebreux.

The first church was planned and built by Bishop Legal in 1885 on the site of the present St. Vincent's Hospital. Mr. Gareau who came to Pincher Creek in 1886 remembers the old church which Father Lacombe used to call his "hermitage." This wooden building became the first convent of the "Filles de Jesus" who arrived in Pincher Creek on January 12, 1904. Later, Bishop Legal gave it to Kermaria Convent. It still stands in the rear of the present convent.

The new church was begun in the fall of 1901 by Father Blanchet. It serves a population of about 500 souls.

The parish priests, all Oblate Fathers, have been as follows: 1897, A. Blanchet; 1906, J. A. Therien, P. E. Nelz, A. Blanchet; 1907, J. A. Barette, P. Hetu, P. Daridon, Marchand; 1911, J. A. Demers, Le Paroux; 1912, L. Pilon; 1918, J. A. Demers; 1926, J. Lepareux; 1931, J. Tessier; 1934, E. Panhaleux; 1945, E. Tardif.

St. John's Juniorate seems to have been started in Pincher Creek by Father Daridon in the building now owned by Mr. R. Rouleau. The students, however, took their meals at the rectory.

St. Michael's parish was still in its infancy when Father Lacombe and Bishop Legal secured the services of Sisters belonging to the order of the "Daughters of Jesus," a religious community founded in Brittany in 1834. The members of the order devote their whole lives, in a spirit of humility and simplicity, to religious education of youth and the care of the sick, both in hospitals and in private homes. The Sisters began their task in Pincher Creek by giving private lessons and teaching catechism to the children. Soon, however, the locality asked for and obtained a separate school and a boarding school. Kermaria (Gallic for Mary's own village) Convent was constructed in 1904. Since then two wings have been added to the first building.

St. Michael's separate school district was established on February 9th, 1909. The present enrollment is 175.

St. Vincent's Hospital was formally opened in October, 1924, in the former Lebel home. It is an asset to the locality and to the surrounding district.

Pincher Creek is at the entrance to the Crow's Nest Pass, three miles south of the C.P.R. station and 32 miles west of Macleod. It had as missions up to

about twenty-five years ago the following places: Beaver Mines, Bocket, Cowley, Dry Fork, Fishburn, Lumbreck, Porcupine, St. Henry's Yarrow and Waterton Lakes.

Pincher Creek is above all a farming and ranching region.

The parish now boasts of two priests: The pastor, Reverend E. Tardif, and the assistant, Reverend W. Girard.

## COWLEY

1885-1948

Cowley in its early days was attended from Pincher Creek. In 1925 Rev. Fr. J. Salaun, O.M.I., residing at Fishburn, attended it; later, 1929, the Rev. F. Arsenault, a diocesan priest, took up residence at Cowley and served its missions, Burmis, Beaver Mines, etc. In 1930 the Rev. John B. O'Dea, now pastor of Ste. Famille church in Calgary, was given charge of Cowley and retained this post till 1937 when he was replaced by Rev. Leo Sullivan who after two years pastorate at Cowley was given charge of Coleman and Rev. I. Leaver from Sacred Heart Church, Calgary, was appointed to Cowley. Following Father Leaver who was appointed to Cardston came Rev. Leo Bartley, and in 1946 the present pastor Rev. Eugene Violini was appointed over Cowley and its missions.

Cowley is on the Crow's Nest C.P.R. line seven miles west of Pincher Creek. It has diversified commodities such as farming, ranching, lumbering and coal mining. Its missions are Burmis, Tod Creek and Beaver Mines.

## BLOOD RESERVE

1889-1948

The Blood Indian Reserve Mission is 25 miles south of Macleod on the road to Cardston and 10 miles north of Cardston. Like all Indian Reserves in the province the Catholic part of the reserve is in charge of the Oblate Fathers. The mission has its church, school and hospital, the hospital being at Cardston and in charge of the Grey Nuns. The present location at St. Mary's is comparatively new. Previous to 1927 the compound was located at Standoff on the Belly River, 5 miles north of the present location but on the same road to Cardston. The mission was established in 1889; the hospital in 1893 and the school in 1898. Again we come across the names of the old time Oblates such as Lavern, Doucet, Ruau, etc., in connections with this mission. At present it is Rev. P. A. Charron who is in charge, assisted by Fathers J. L. Lavern, E. Forrestier and C. Frappier, O.M.I.'s, two brothers and sixteen sisters (Grey Nuns of Montreal).

## COCHRANE

1894-1948

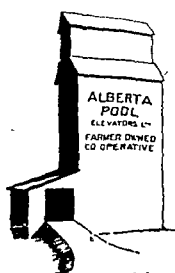
Cochrane is on the Banff highway, 22 miles west of Calgary.

As early as 1881 Catholic ranchers, among them Angus and D. P. McDonald from the Highlands of Scotland, came into the district. Others followed with the coming of the railway in 1883 and following years up to 1894, when a census of the Catholics was taken and showed that there were 80 Catholics in the district. These were administered to by the early missionaries among whom were Father Fay, a native of Edinburgh, Scotland, who attended the railroad construction and mining camps from Calgary to Port Moody, B.C., in 1884-1885, and afterwards became

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the first parish priest of Vancouver. He was succeeded by Father L. Doucet, O.M.I., till January, 1887. He in turn was followed by Father Blais, O.M.I. for the three years, 1887-1890. From August, 1890, to June, 1892, Father Deroches was in charge, being relieved by Father W. Comire, O.M.I., the builder of the church at Cochrane.

The church at Cochrane was built in 1895 and the district was a mission of Canmore, and was served by the missionaries in charge of that mining town. The church at Cochrane was opened and blessed by Father Lestanc, the superior of the Oblate House in Calgary on November 24, 1895. Father Comire was celebrant of the High Mass on this memorable occasion. Father Comire was transferred in June, 1896, to Onion Lake, Saskatchewan. Father Forquet, O.M.I., replaced him and remained in charge till 1899. For a few months following Father Forquet's departure, Father L. Gulerier from Calgary attended the Cochrane parish until January, 1900, when Father Jules Selmann, O.M.I., was placed in charge of Canmore, Banff, Cochrane and missions.

He remained in charge until October, 1907, when he was succeeded by Father H. Hermes, O.M.I., who remained until 1922. In this year, 1922, Father John Osborne, the first of the diocesan priests to take over Canmore and missions, was appointed by His Excellency, the Most Rev. J. T. McNally, D.D., to have charge of Canmore, Cochrane and Banff. He remained in charge until 1930. Cochrane, since 1926 when it became separated from Canmore and Banff, has been served by priests from St. Mary's, Calgary, Father A. Macdam being among the first. Others who administered to the Catholic people of Cochrane following Father MacAdam were Father John McLaughlin, 1933; Father F. Fitzpatrick, 1935-1936; Father C. J. Lyons, Father C. J. Clancy, Father J. T. Dunbar. In 1940 the parish was placed under the care of Father J. Lessard, O.M.I., who came from Cluny and took up residence at Cochrane and remained in charge of Cochrane and missions and also had the care of the Sarcee Indian Reserve until 1946. Since 1946 Cochrane has been served by Father J. Lefort from the Bishop's Residence in Calgary.

## **PARISH OF ST. TERESA OF THE CHILD JESUS**

### **CARDSTON, ALBERTA**

**1899-1948**

This parish is one of the oldest in the diocese of Calgary founded, as it was, in 1899 at Harrisville where, in that year, a church honoring St. Stephen of Hungary, was built by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate serving the mission from their headquarters at Standoff. Alberta gales took this first structure and in 1905 prudence nestled the present church in a vale away from the roaring chinooks. In 1928, with the establishment of the Blood Reserve Indian Hospital served by the Grey Nuns of Nicolet at Cardston, Most Rev. Thomas Kidd, D.D. (now of London, Ont.) took the opportunity to give daily Mass to the Sisters and a resident parish priest to the isolated Catholics scattered over the 1,500 square miles of southern Alberta bounded by the Belly River and the McIntyre Ranch, west and east; and the Blood Reserve and the Montana border north and south. During its comparatively long history the parish has experienced the zeal of the Oblates: Father Leon Doucet who performed the first marriage recorded in this parish, and who was followed by his brethren Frs. J. Riou, M. Lepine, J. L. Levern, E. Ruau and J. M. Salun. Shortly before the Cardston church was built, the priests of the Diocese of Calgary began to serve the district with the advent of Fr. E. Hyatt followed by Frs. Dorist , Moreau, Neil McCormick, John Jacob and the present pastor, Ignatius Leaver.

The missions of Cardston are Harrisville, Whiskey Gap and Del Bonita.

### **CARSTAIRS, CROSSFIELD AND WATER VALLEY**

**1902-1948**

The parish of St. Agnes is situated in the farming centre of Carstairs, a village with a population of 450, forty miles north of Calgary. The first Mass in the district was said at the home of Alois Schwinn January 8, 1902, by Rev. Fr. Selmann, O.M.I. Under his guidance the church was built and dedicated by Father Leduc, October 30, 1904. The first recorded baptism was January 5, 1905 by Rev. C. Vandendaele, O.M.I. That same year the Tenchiberry Fathers of Red Deer were given charge of the parish, along with Olds and Beiseker but it was not until 1908 that there was a resident priest in the person of Rev. L. Forget, the present pastor of St. Patrick's, Vancouver. He it was who built the rectory. In 1910 he was replaced by Rev. E. Ciron who served until 1913, being succeeded by Rev. L. Anciaux, S.M.T., who was parish priest until 1916 when the diocesan priests took over. For a while priests from St. Mary's Cathedral came up on Sundays, then Father Cosman was here for a few months until the appointment of Rev. Wm. Dargan who was to be resident pastor for the next 16 years. In 1933 Rev. Colin Ross arrived and after five years was succeeded by Rev. Cyril Lynett who remained until 1944. Rev. W. Leonard served for a few months until the appointment of Rev. E. Hyatt who was succeeded November 10, 1946, by Rev. P. A. Tessier, the present pastor.

The parish covers a considerable area and includes the missions of St. Frances of Rome, Crossfield, which church was built by Father Anciaux and dedicated by Bishop Legal September 1, 1907, and Christ the King, Water Valley, built by Father Ross and dedicated by Bishop Carroll in 1935. About 280 Catholics reside in the district. The different pastors have improved and beautified the churches but too much credit cannot be given to the early pioneers who were

instrumental in having the parish established and kept it going from their very limited resources. Names which deserve mention are the Schwinns, Lennons, Fosters, Hays, Spaldings, Levesque, Haley and Morneault. May God reward them for their devotion to their faith.

### **HOLY GHOST CHURCH, COLEMAN, ALBERTA**

**1902-1948**

This parish is in the industrial coal fields of Alberta, bordering the Nelson diocese on the west and the U.S.A. to the south and of course St. Anne's parish, Blairmore, to the east.

Records show that Rev. A. Blanchet, O.M.I., administered the Sacrament of Baptism in 1902. Father Lacombe attended to the people of the parish here in 1903. From 1903 to 1905 Father Lepine was the parish priest. In 1905 Rev. E. DeWilde came to Coleman. It was during his stay that the church was built.

The Coleman people had planned to build the church down town, but owing to the high cost of the lot, the church was built in its present location. It was a rough, unpainted frame building with chairs for pews, plain glass windows, no choir loft and no organ. This church, crude as it was, was to Coleman people what St. Peter's is to the Romans.

Father DeWilde was here until 1910. Father Lajat, O.S.B., administered the parish for a short while in the latter part of 1910. The Reverend A. L. Delestre, now in the Nelson Diocese, was pastor for a number of years. Following Father Delestre was Rev. A. J. Swenseski who came in September of 1914 and left in November of the same year. Rev. Father Crociato was next, and when he left in June, 1916, Rev. Wm. Dargan replaced him until 1917, when Rev. S. Bajalski came to be with the people of the parish until 1918.

Rev. N. McCormick was Coleman's parish priest for ten years. During his long stay he renovated the church and had an altar donated by a kind parishioner. A choir loft was installed and a confessional erected. This period was a very progressive one for the parish.

In 1928 Father McCormick was replaced by Rev. E. Lehman. Father Lehman was followed by the Reverend P. M. Spekmaire in 1932.

Father Spekmaire's successor, Maj. The Rev. J. T. Dunbar who went overseas in 1941, came to the parish in 1933. In 1936 the church was entirely remodelled under Father Dunbar's supervision. The rectory was moved into the lot next to the church and general repairs completed.

The present pastor Rev. Leo Sullivan took over the administration of the parish in July 1940.

The Catholic population of the parish at present is approximately 1,500 souls.

### **ST. ANNE'S, BLAIRMORE, ALBERTA**

**1903-1948**

The first Holy Sacrifice of the Mass offered in Blairmore had the Most Reverend Bishop Legal of St. Albert, as celebrant. From the memoirs of one of the early priests in the Pass, it was most likely before the Frank Slide of April 29, 1903. Father Maurice Lepine, O.M.I., visited the Pass after the Frank Slide and before his time, records tell us, the saintly Father Blanchet, O.M.I., stationed at Macleod, had the present towns along the Crow among his stations.



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The Pass had no resident priest until 1905, when Father DeWilde established residence at Coleman and had the other towns as his missions.

In 1907 Father Felix Lajat, O.S.B., was sent to reside in the Pass by Bishop Legal. After receiving advice of parishioners, he made his headquarters at Frank, looking after Lille, Bellevue, Hillcrest, Passburg and the missions East.

In 1908, the health of Father DeWilde was weakening and he requested Father Lajat to add Blairmore to his charge.

The Cape Breton coal strike of 1908 sent some Catholic families west particularly to the coal fields. Many of them came to the Crow's Nest Pass. From September of 1908 to Easter of 1909, Father Lajat said Mass in a school house, not in use as such, in Blairmore. By Easter, 1909, Mass was being said here every second Sunday, but at this time the school board required their building and new quarters of necessity must be found. A small building, being used as a paint shop was purchased and used as Catholic headquarters in Blairmore in 1910. In this year also, Father Lajat undertook the building of a

church at Frank. It was the parish; Blairmore was the mission. The church started on July 26, 1910, was finished November 13 of that year and entitled the Church of the Blessed Sacrament. Father Lajat left the Pass in 1911. Father Sammutt succeeded him and was the first to establish residence in Blairmore. Father Sammutt left in 1912 and for that year and until 1914, Rev. A. L. DeLestie, now in Rutland, B.C. attended Blairmore from Coleman. From 1914 to 1916 Rev. Ronald Beaton, residing in Bellevue, attended Blairmore until the coming of Father Cosman to replace him in 1916. Coming from Bellevue, Father Cosman carried on in the forementioned "paint shop." Due to the increase in Blairmore's population, a larger edifice was needed and permission was obtained in May, 1919, to start operations on a new church. By early spring of 1920, the new building was finished.

Much appreciation is due Rev. Father Cosman and the active parishioners of that day. The new building was of frame and stucco construction, all Gothic windows with memorial ones on east and west sides. The old building had been joined to the new and utilized for the sanctuary and vestry. In June,

1920, the church was blessed by Bishop McNally and placed under the special protection of St. Anne. Of Father Cosman the same story is told us as of all his predecessors, ill-health overtook him and in April, 1926, he left St. Anne's, a very sick man. Rev. J. B. Moriarty was in charge until September, when the present pastor, The Very Rev. M. A. Harrington arrived, September 17th, 1926.

The parishioners of St. Anne's, numbering over 800 souls, now own a very spacious and up to date hall. St. Alphonsus Convent, bought, equipped and paid for in 1939, was officially opened January 29, 1940. The Sisters of St. Martha had arrived in October, 1939. To St. Anne's and the other parishes of the Crow's Nest, these Sisters with their social work are truly followers of the Martha in the Gospel narrative. By their piety, zeal and fervor in the work of God, they have endeared themselves to the people among whom they work and live. As well as their many other occupations, they carry on a kindergarten within the Convent.

### **HIGH RIVER 1903-1948**

The history of the church in High River had its beginning within the present century. During 1903 to 1905 Rev. J. M. Lestanc, O.M.I., from Calgary visited here and said Mass. Father N. C. Dubois, O.M.I., who had charge of Okotoks as well, built the church at High River in 1907 and 1908, and the first Mass was said in the church on February 23, 1908. The title of the church is St. Francis de Sales. Father Dubois served High River from 1905 to 1908. In 1908 High River was separated from Okotoks and Rev. A. Beausoleil was placed in charge of High River and missions. The missions were Brant, Vulcan, Champion, Carmangay and Barons. Father Beausoleil remained in charge till 1914 when he became a chaplain in the service for the armed forces and went overseas till the end of World War I. During his absence his place was taken by Rev. Wm. Smith, up till 1919. Father Beausoleil returned in 1920 and remained till 1923, when the late Rev. W. F. Bowlen was placed in charge. He remained till 1944 when through ill health he resigned and his place was filled by the present pastor Rev. M. J. Fitzpatrick. High River is in the centre of a farming and ranching district 38 miles south of Calgary. It has a population of about 2,500. The extent of the territory covered by the parish and missions is 700 square miles, within which area there are some 290 Catholics.

### **COUTTS, MILK RIVER, WARNER AND ALLERSTON 1905-1948**

**Coutts** on the Montana border was infrequently visited by priests from Lethbridge. In 1905 Father L. Van Tighem, O.M.I., secured land and erected a church dedicated by Bishop Legal in 1905, and served monthly on a week day by Father Van Tighem until 1910. In April, 1910, Father Bidault took charge and Mass was said once a month on Sundays. The name of the church is Holy Angels.

**Milk River**, where the parish priest now has his residence had its first Catholic settlers in 1909. It was visited by Father Meyer, O.M.I., and later by Father Bidault, O.M.I. At first Mass was said in a school house until 1915 when a church was erected and blessed by Bishop McNally of Calgary in 1917. This church was burned in 1928 and a basement church was built that same year. The rectory was erected in 1930. In 1921 Father A. E. Rouleau became the first resident priest. The name of the church is St. Peters.

**Allerston** was settled by Catholics from Minnesota in 1910 and 1911. A school-house was their first church. In 1912 a church was erected and in July of that same year it was blessed by Bishop Legal. Father Meyer was the first missionary; Father Bidault followed him until 1921 when this mission came under Warner. The name of the church is St. Isadore.

**Warner:** Beginning in 1908 Warner was visited by Father Van Tighem. In 1912 a church was built at Warner and opened and blessed by Bishop Legal. Rev. Father Eibold, O.M.I., was the first priest in charge.

All the above-mentioned parishes were served and administered by the Oblate Fathers from Lethbridge from their inception until 1921 when Rev. A. E. Rouleau, diocesan priest, was placed in charge. Rev. Thomas H. Greene succeeded (April 22, 1922) Father Rouleau who was given St. Anne's Parish in Calgary. Father Greene was succeeded by Father P. M. Speckmaier in January, 1927. During Father Speckmaier's tenure of office, Warner became a separate parish and retained no missions, while Milk River had as missions Allerston and Coutts. In 1930 Rev. E. A. Hyatt was placed in charge of Milk River and Missions while Father Speckmaier remained as pastor of Warner. In 1932 Rev. H. J. Doiron was placed in charge of Milk River and Missions and is still the pastor of said parish. In the same year Warner had a change of pastors. Owing to ill health Father Speckmaier retired and Rev. H. F. Ritter replaced him. In 1937 the present pastor Rev. Edmund Lehman was given charge of Warner.

Warner is on the No. 4 Highway (Sunshine Trail) 42 miles southeast of Lethbridge. It has a population of about 300 and is in the centre of a mixed farming and ranching area. The area of the parish covers 300 square miles with 150 Catholics. The name of the church is Our Lady of Lourdes.

### **BEISEKER 1907-1948**

This parish of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin comprises a large agricultural district north-east of the city of Calgary and extending from Keoma to the south to north of Acme. The parish church is situated in Beiseker, a small village of about 300 population, situated 45 miles from Calgary on branch lines of both the C.P.R. and C.N.R. and the main highway to Drumheller. Of approximately 500 souls in the parish, the greater majority are concentrated about Beiseker where the first Catholic settler Ludwig Schmaltz and his family arrived in August of 1907. The following year others now well known in the community came from North Dakota, coming to their new homes by way of Crossfield. Among these latter were Emmanuel Hagel and his sons, the Joseph Schmaltz, Adam Schleppe and Joseph Silbernagel families, also Valentine Dennis, who gave part of his original farm land as the site for a church.

The first missionary priests to labour in the district came from the community at Carstairs and until the church was built and opened in the spring of 1910, mass was said in the home of Ludwig Schmaltz. The fathers from Trochu also paid occasional visits during these early years but the one priest that might be mentioned as the regular missionary in charge was one Father Ciron of Carstairs under whose direction the church was built. Later the Oblate Fathers of Calgary took over the parish work and Fathers Meyer and Nelz gave considerable time to the spiritual needs of the people. With the formation of the separate diocese of Calgary, the secular clergy took over the



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pastoral work and among these first were the Reverend Fathers F. M. Murphy and P. F. Beaton. The beloved Father Michael McQuaid was parish priest for many years from 1925 until his death when the Right Reverend Monsignor McCoy was appointed pastor in the fall of 1932. Succeeding parish priests have been Reverend Michael Fitzpatrick (1937-41) and the present pastor Reverend Aubrey Tennant.

Through all these years the parish grew considerably and although the church building was enlarged twice, there is now need for a new and larger church. With a sizable building fund being increased and the well-known enthusiasm of the parishioners in evidence, the prospect of this new church should soon become a reality.

Connected with Beiseker parish is the mission of Swalwell, 22 miles north and extending to the border of the Edmonton Diocese. While Monsignor McCoy was pastor, a small but substantial church was completed in the village of Swalwell to serve the people of the mission. This building was made possible through the good offices of the Church Extension Society and the generosity of the parents of Miss K. E. Wickett of Toronto in whose memory the little church was given the title of Saints James and Catherine.

#### **GLEICHEN AND MISSIONS of Arrowwood and Hussar 1908-1948**

St. Victor's parish at Gleichen is now forty years old. As in the case of nearly all the parishes in and around Calgary this too was established by the Oblate Fathers. At first this was a mission of Blackfoot Crossing, and later, in 1912, became a separate parish and had for its parish priest Rev. G. Simonin, O.M.I., who remained in the parish until 1925. It

was for about two years, 1925-26, cared for from Strathmore by the Rev. E. Dougan. In 1929 the Rev. D. Moreau was placed in charge and he in turn was followed by the following: 1932-34, Rev. F. Arsenault; 1935-38, Rev. Neil J. McCormick; 1939, Rev. E. A. Hyatt; and the present pastor, Rev. N. Lebel, 1940-48.

#### **VULCAN 1908-1948**

Vulcan, the principal town on the C.P.R. line from Aldersyde to Lethbridge, is the dwelling place of the priest in charge of this parish and missions. The missions are Champion, Carmangay and formerly Barons. Vulcan itself together with its missions was up until 1919 served from High River. In 1919 Rev. John McLaughlin was given charge of Vulcan and surrounding missions. In 1920 Father McLaughlin built the present church at Vulcan. The one at Champion was built several years before. Father McLaughlin's pastorate ran until 1927. He was succeeded by Rev. Neil J. McCormick, now in the Diocese of Alexandria, Ont.

Vulcan is in the centre of a large area of good wheat growing country and has from 5 to 8 wheat elevators at every town in the district.

The following is a list of the succeeding pastors following Father McCormick: Rev. A. MacAdam, 1930-32; Rev. John A. Cunningham, 1932-36; Rev. Henry F. Ritter, the present incumbent, 1937.

Coalhurst, while the mines there were producing, was a parish centre with Barons as a mission, but when it closed its mine it ceased to be a parish centre and Barons is now attended by Rev. Edw. DeBusschere, chaplain of St. Michael's Hospital, Lethbridge.





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### **NANTON, STAVELY, CLARESHOLM, GRANUM** **1908-1948**

Nanton was served from Okotoks by Rev. D. Dubois from 1908 to 1916, when it was served by Rev. F. J. Hughes, parish priest of Granum up to 1933. From 1908 to 1914 Rev. A. Beausoleil, parish priest of High River served Stavely and Claresholm as missions of High River, while Granum was served from Macleod from 1909 to 1916. When Rev. A. Beausoleil in 1914 became a chaplain to the Canadian Army in World War I the Rev. Wm. Smith from England replaced him at High River and served the missions of Stavely and Claresholm until 1916. In 1916 all four places, viz., Nanton, Stavely, Granum and Claresholm were served from Granum by Rev. F. J. Hughes until 1933. In 1933 Father Hughes was relieved of Nanton and Stavely and served only Granum and Claresholm until 1935. In the meantime 1933-1936 Rev. A. E. Rouleau had charge of Nanton and Stavely; from 1936 to 1941 Rev. A. Tennant was parish priest of these two missions. After Father Hughes' retirement in 1935 Granum and

Claresholm were served by Rev. F. J. Fitzpatrick during 1936 and 1937, and in 1937 to 1941 by Rev. D. Moreau. From 1941 until May, 1947, all four places were in charge of the Redemptorist Fathers, among whom were the following: Fathers Thomas P. Coyne, J. M. Lambert, N. J. Killingsworth, A. O. Stoeckel and T. J. Murphy. In May, 1947, Rev. Patrick B. O'Byrne was placed in charge, and until March of 1948, with assistance from the Basilian Fathers of Calgary on Sunday carried on. In March, 1948, Rev. W. J. Krewski was appointed as assistant to Father O'Byrne.

Claresholm and missions are all provided with churches built in their early missionary life. St. George's at Claresholm, St. Cecilia, at Nanton, St. Vincent at Stavely, and St. Augustine at Granum. The territory embraced by this parish and missions is on the Calgary-Macleod C.P.R. line and extends 50 miles north and south and east and west another 35 to 40 miles. The population is about 3,500, among whom are 525 Catholics. The chief occupation of the people is ranching and farming.



## RAYMOND, COALDALE AND NEW DAYTON 1909-1948

The history of New Dayton actually begins with the arrival of the Gust Kaupp family with six sons from Crestline, Ohio, in the spring of 1909. Within two months a seventh son was born to them and as with all true Catholics, they lost no time in contacting the Fathers in Lethbridge to arrange for baptizing him. Hence on May 21, 1909, Reverend Father L. Van Tighem, O.M.I., came to the Kaupp home, three miles out of New Dayton, and said Holy Mass and baptized the baby, Paul Vincent.

From then on for 20 years, their home was the centre of Catholic action in New Dayton. In 1912 another Catholic family the Schills, also came from Crestline and Holy Mass was said in their home at odd times but never with the regularity that occurred at Kaupps. It was always a week day service, but no matter when it came, or what work was on hand, all work ceased and we went to Mass and the Sacraments. From 1910 until 1926 we were cared for by Rev. Father J. Bideault, O.M.I., of Lethbridge and now of Meadow Lake, Sask. I have seen Father Bideault arrive late at night, having come from the Del Bonita country, in a limping Ford, tired, muddy and possibly hungry, but cheerful and glad to see us and hear all our hopes and fears. In 1912 we learned to sing "The Mass of the Angels," and from then on we had High Mass even if it were in a private house.

I cannot speak too highly of Mrs. Kaupp for of her it can be truly said, "She kept the Faith among us." Were it not for her hospitality and encouragement to every priest who came our way, many of us would have drifted away from our Holy Faith. She felt it her imperative duty to place at our disposal, Catholic services and institutions. At odd times Holy Mass was said at the Schill and Scott homes but the Kaupp home was our link with the Catholic world. Fathers Van Tighem, Meyers, Eibolt, Bideault and Jacobs—all from the Oblate Fathers' community in Lethbridge and whose names have made history in Western Canada have said Mass in the Kaupp home. His Excellency Bishop Kidd was a guest there during the construction of the church and later Bishop Monahan as well.

In the summer of 1928, the time seemed opportune for us to build a church and the present structure of St. Edmund's was built under the supervision of Rev. Father Greene and dedicated by His Excellency, Bishop Kidd, November 4, 1928. The approximate cost was \$4,000 and our total congregation 25 adults and 24 children. We did get some outside contributions which were very, very timely.

Almost immediately we were attached to the Sacred Heart parish in Raymond and Father Hyatt made our priest. He was followed by Fathers Foote and McGuiness until 1936 when Father John Duplanil, O.M.I., came and took care of us for 12 years. At present we are the charge of Father Edmund Lehman of Warner.

New-Dayton is a farming centre 35 miles north of the Montana-Alberta boundary and 29 miles south of Lethbridge. It covers a territory of 13 miles square and 110 persons.

### TABER 1909-1948

Taber parish was established by Father Meyer, an Oblate. Father Bertrand was the first to visit here in 1909. Father Meyer attended from Lethbridge and built St. Augustine's Church in 1910, in Taber,

35 miles east of Lethbridge on the Crow's Nest line from Medicine Hat. Taber has 2,000 people. 25 miles north is the mission of St. Anne's with the church in Retlaw. This parish is 30 miles long and 75 miles wide, stretching from Chin on the west to Purple Springs on the east, and from Taber to the south to Travers on the northern boundary. There are 1,400 souls in this territory. Taber itself is the centre of the irrigation district, but combines agriculture with industry—oil and coal mining both contributing to the revenue of the town.

Father Bertrand was the first to visit here in 1909. Father Meyer built the church and served here until 1911. Father Bideault served here from 1911 until 1913. Father Van Tighem, the first resident parish priest, was in charge from 1913 until his death in 1917. Father E. J. McCoy served Taber as mission from Bow Island from 1917 until 1931. Father Kientz was then in charge until 1934 when Father Neville Anderson ruled until the fall. In September, 1934, Father Arthur Anderson took over until September, 1940, when Father Lyons was appointed pastor.

## FOREMOST AND MISSIONS 1910-1948

The present parish of Foremost began with the missions of Faith and Granlea. These districts were homesteaded in 1910. Faith is situated 15 miles south of Nemiskam and the territory extends to the Montana border. The Catholic settlers were visited first by Rev. Fr. Meyer, O.M.I., from Lethbridge in 1910, the year of settlement. Mass was said at infrequent intervals until 1912 when the church was erected and dedicated to the Sacred Heart. From 1912 to 1925, the church was visited by the Oblate Fathers Held, Stulman and Bideault of Lethbridge. In 1925 Father Bideault took up residence at Nemiskam which village was intended to serve as a central residence for all the missions of the south. In 1927 Faith passed to the diocesan clergy.

### Granlea

Granlea is situated 25 miles south east of Bow Island. The first priests to visit the new settlement were Fathers Cahier and Reibel, Sacred Heart Missionaries from Medicine Hat. A church was built in 1912 and dedicated to St. Anthony. In 1917 Msgr. McCoy served the mission from Bow Island until 1921 when it was taken over by the Oblates of Lethbridge. In 1925 it became one of Father Bideault's missions served from Nemiskam. Two years later it reverted to the diocesan clergy.

### Near Foremost

In the same 1910 settlement a number of Catholic families settled six miles north of the present village of Foremost. In 1913 a small church was erected in their midst and dedicated to St. Joseph. Father Meyer, O.M.I. from Lethbridge was the first to visit this mission. In 1914 the Sacred Heart missionaries from Medicine Hat took charge until the mission came under the care of Msgr. McCoy in 1917. The Oblates took over the mission again in 1921 until 1927 when Fr. Bideault, O.M.I., was the priest in charge.

St. Joseph's was destroyed by fire and rebuilt in 1930. After the erection of the church in the village of Foremost, the parishioners of St. Joseph's began using the village church. A few years ago, St. Joseph's was abandoned.



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#### **Etzikom**

Etzikom, a small village east of Nemiskam was visited from 1916 to 1927 by Fr. Bideault, O.M.I., who said Mass in the hotel or school house. A small church was erected in 1927 and dedicated to St. Gabriel. In the same year, the care of Etzikom was taken over by the diocesan clergy and from 1936 to 1941 served as the residence of the priest. On May 17, 1946, St. Gabriel's was completely destroyed in a wind-storm. A new church has been erected since.

#### **Nemiskam**

Nemiskam was chosen as a residence for the missionary serving the area of all these missions when the railway was completed in 1923. Two years later, Fr. Bideault, O.M.I., became the first resident priest. The priest's house was provided with a chapel in which the few Catholics assisted at Mass. In 1927 the missions passed to the diocesan clergy. Among the priests who resided at Nemiskam were Fathers Greene, Jacob and Tennant. In 1935 the residence was discontinued, the priest moving to Etzikom.

#### **Foremost**

Although this village began in 1913, the few Catholic villagers assisted at Mass in a public hall from that date to 1927, and was served by Lethbridge Oblates. In that year a church was built and dedicated to Our Lady of Perpetual Help. In the same year the church passed to the diocesan clergy. Foremost has grown to the largest settlement in the area. For this reason the priest took up residence here in 1941. Thus Foremost has become the church centre serving Faith, Granlea, Etzikom, etc.

#### **BOW ISLAND AND MISSIONS 1910-1948**

The parish of Bow Island began with its present missions. The present church of the Assumption, situated some miles south of Grassy Lake, was built about 1910. The settlement was originally called Ellerville. The church was served at first by Oblate Fathers from Lethbridge. In 1917 Msgr. McCoy took charge. Since then Assumption has been part of Bow Island parish.



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Sacred Heart Church, southeast of Bow Island was apparently attended first from Medicine Hat. The date of the erection of the church is not in the chancery records. Apparently it was erected after the foundation of the diocese. In 1917 it became one of Msgr. McCoy's missions.

The church at Whitla seems to have been erected in 1913 and was a mission of Medicine Hat until taken over by Msgr. McCoy.

The church in Bow Island was erected by Msgr. McCoy in 1917 and dedicated to St. Michael, and became the priest's residence in 1918. This church and village became the centre of Msgr. McCoy's Missions which in the first years of his incumbency extended from Medicine Hat to Taber and south to the Montana border. By 1927, through new parish erection, the parish consisted of Bow Island and the above three named missions. Msgr. McCoy was succeeded in 1932 by Rev. E. Lehman, in 1935 by Rev. J. A. Cunningham and in 1946 by Rev. A. E. Rouleau.

### STRATHMORE

1910-1948

Strathmore, population 625, is located on the No. 1 Trans-Canada Highway, 30 miles east of Calgary. The history of Strathmore is closely linked with the C.P.R. in that two aspects of the company's work were centred in the town. In the first place the irrigating system, called the W.I.D. was established with Strathmore as its headquarters. The second project that helped to make Strathmore a community centre was the establishment of the famous C.P.R. farm which has recently been sold to private interests.

The first settlers in the district for the most part were Americans who crossed the border in small numbers, and who made no concerted effort to bring in groups of settlers.

However by 1910 a number of Dutch and Belgian immigrants began arriving in groups. They settled on farms in the vicinity and since that time wheat growing and stock raising have been the principal industries. These early settlers were for the most part responsible for the establishment of a parish



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in the district. Many of these immigrants settled northeast of Strathmore at Akenstad and Mass was celebrated in the school house.

However records seem to prove that the first resident priest in the district was at Langdon, and the priest Father Van Tighem, O.M.I., used to come to Strathmore and celebrate Mass in the Duff building. Father Van Tighem began the erection of a church in Strathmore in 1910 and he made Strathmore his headquarters for the following three years. Father F. M. Lajat, O.S.B., and Father Deman, O.M.I., also laboured in the district till 1915. Father E. J. Carew was in Strathmore from 1916-18 and it was during this period, that the work on the inside of the church was completed. Father F. Murphy had charge of the parish from 1918-21. However he lived in Calgary and came to Strathmore for the week-ends. Father E. Dougan was in Strathmore from 1921-25 and after an absence of four years he was pastor again from 1929-32. During the four years absence of Father Dougan, Father A. MacAdam had charge

of the parish, and after Father Dougan left in 1932, Father MacAdam again returned to the parish for two years. From 1934 to 1938 Father P. J. Cosman was pastor and Father Ignatius Leaver was pastor from 1938-39; Father A. E. Rouleau from 1939-41, Father M. J. Fitzpatrick from 1942-44, when Father J. T. Gibbons, the present incumbent, took over the parish.

St. Philip's Church, Carseland, is the only mission in the parish at the present time.

The Sacred Heart Parish, Strathmore, and St. Philip's Parish, Carseland, have at present 348 members.

**SCHULER  
1912-1948**

The parish of St. Joseph, at Schuler, was started by a group of Russian-German Catholics who had migrated from the Ukraine in 1912. Real pioneer conditions prevailed those early days. A team of horses cost from \$500 to \$1,000, cows were also high



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priced. Two or three Catholic families would buy a team of horses and a cow between them, so that they might till and cultivate their small farms. The lumber, coal, groceries and all necessary supplies had to be hauled by team from Irvine or Medicine Hat, a distance of over 40 miles.

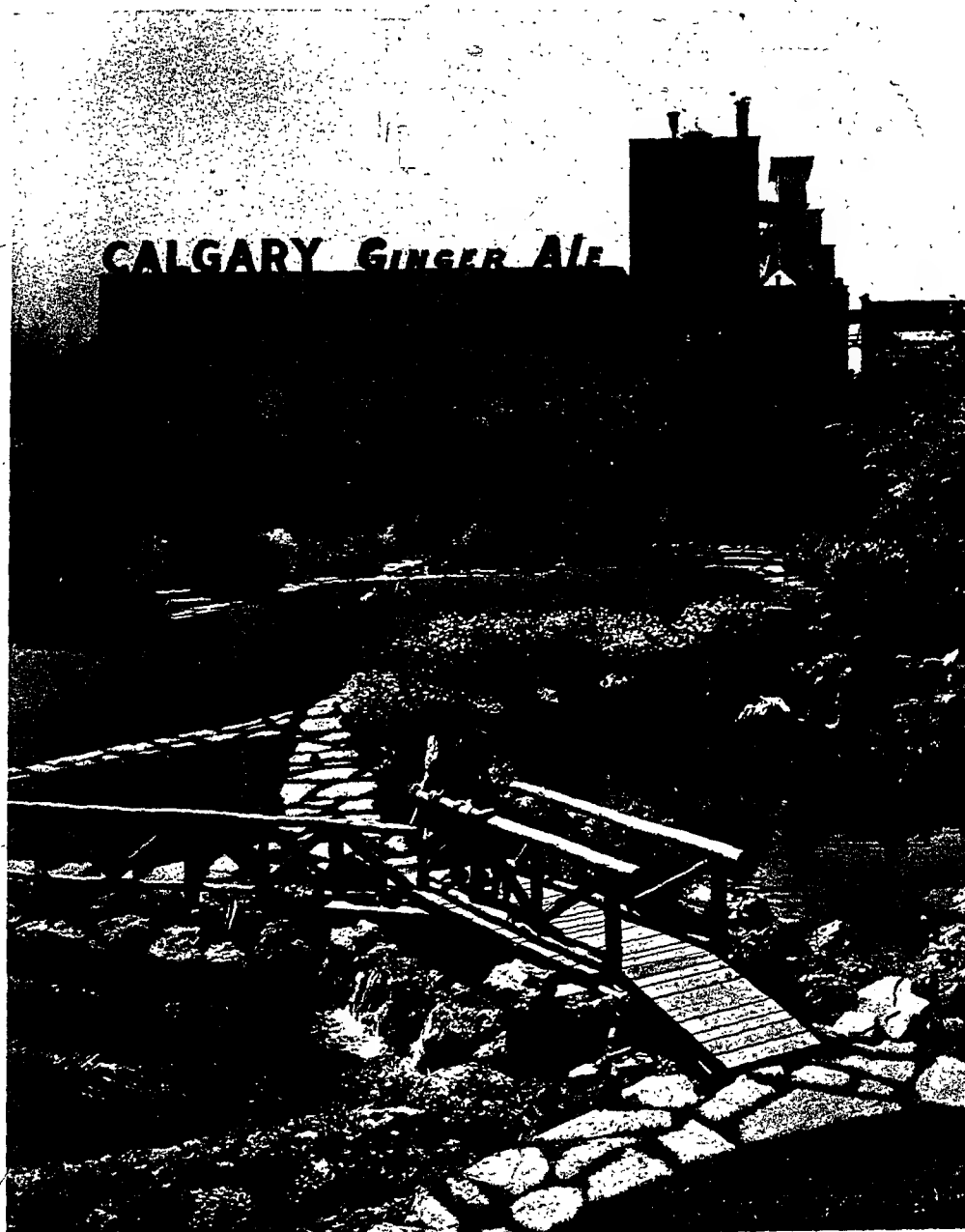
In those days, the priest came out to Schuler every two months for Holy Mass from Medicine Hat, travelling by lumber wagon. It often took the priest 10 to 12 hours to make the trip. Prior to 1917, Holy Mass was said in private homes. In 1917 the people gathered together \$1,000 and built a chapel in the community which they called their "House of Prayer." In 1917, the Bishop of Calgary at that time, Rt. Rev. John T. McNally, visited Schuler for the first time. The Bishop had no knowledge of, nor had he given permission for, the erection of the first chapel at Schuler. His Lordship was amused when the people told him that they had no idea that the permission of the Bishop was required before the people could have their own House of Prayer.

By the year 1930 the original church had become too small for the congregation. It was in that

year that Rt. Rev. Thomas Kidd, the then Bishop of Calgary, on his own initiative made all the arrangements and completed the plans for the building of a larger and more suitable church at Schuler. The new Church was dedicated to St. Joseph and was blessed by Bishop Kidd in August, 1930.

The following priests have served the parish of Schuler: Rev. Francis Sixafer, 1912-14; Rev. Reibel, 1915-17; Rev. P. Beaton, 1918-20; Rev. Hermes, 1920-21; Rev. T. Greene, 1922-23; Rev. M. Fitzpatrick, 1923-30; Rev. John Jacob, the first resident priest, 1930-35; Rev. Leo Sullivan, 1936; Rev. F. Foote and Rev. Arsenault (served the parish from Empress during 1937-40); Rev. Leo Burke, 1941-42; Rev. Gino Violini, 1942-46; Rev. Leo F. Bartley, 1946.

Schuler is situated on the branch line of the C.P.R. from Empress, in the southeastern part of Alberta, 40 miles north of Medicine Hat. It is located in an exclusively farming and ranching district. There are approximately 260 Catholics in the parish.



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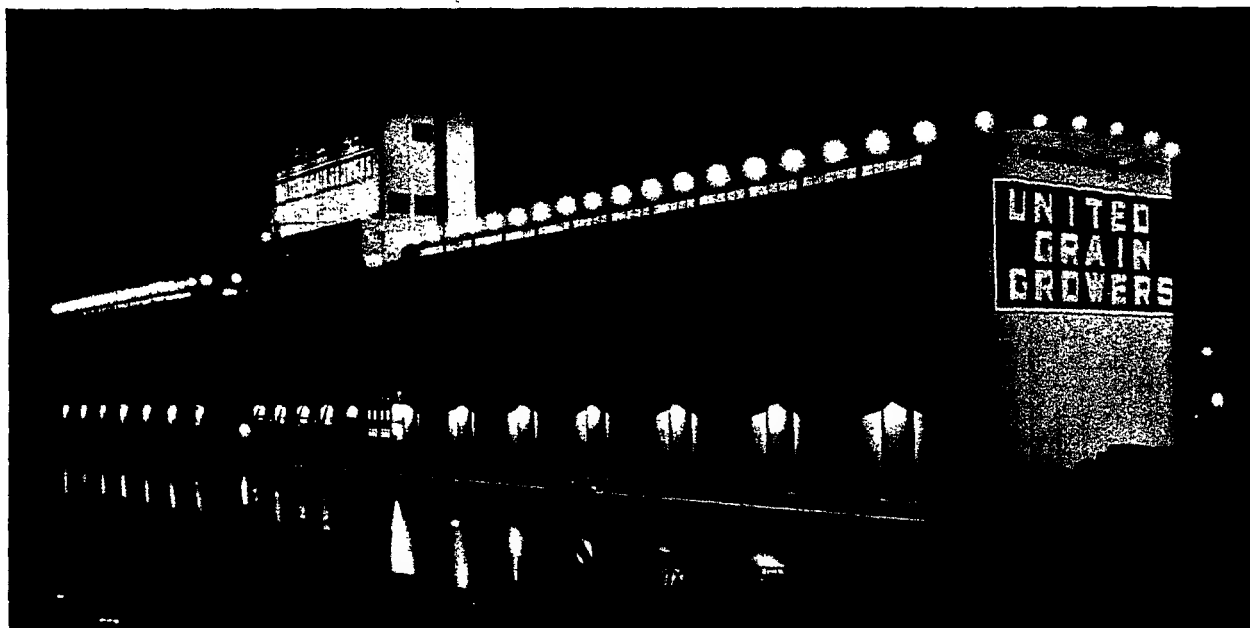
Photo by Oliver Studio

#### MISSIONS ON THE GOOSE LAKE LINE FROM DRUMHELLER TO THE SASKATCHEWAN BORDER

1912-1948

With the building of the Canadian Northern Railway, Saskatoon to Calgary branch, 1912 to 1914, new towns began to spring up like mushrooms along the new line, Oyen, Cereal, Chinook, Youngstown, etc., to Drumheller and Calgary. The territory previous to this was a ranching and new farming district and if visited by missionary priests they in all probability came from Castor in the Edmonton diocese. The first priest from the newly formed Calgary diocese to visit the district that we have record of was Rev. P. O. Russell who went along the line and as he went built churches in nearly all the towns mentioned, viz., Drumheller, Munson, Youngstown, Chinook, Cereal and Oyen in 1914. Father Russell

served these places in 1914 and 1915 from Youngstown and left the district to work in the United States whence he came. The Rev. Wm. F. Bowlen, newly ordained priest for the Calgary diocese was placed in charge of these missions in 1915 and served them faithfully and well until September, 1921, when he was transferred to High River and was succeeded in Oyen by the Rev. J. C. Lynett. During Fr. Bowlen's pastorate in Oyen he built a church, St. Timothy's, at Sunnynook and served this mission 100 miles from Oyen monthly. Fr. Lynett served Oyen and missions for 17 years, 1921-1938. He however was relieved of some of the many missions for the period 1927-1936 when Youngstown was given a resident priest and set apart as a parish with the missions of Richdale, Sunnynook, Howie, Lone Butte and Steveville. Rev. E. E. Mulvill was Youngstown's first pastor of this period. He remained three years in the parish and then was added to the teaching staff of St. Mary's Boys' School in Calgary and the Rev. H.



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Doiron became parish priest of Youngstown, 1930-33, the Rev. E. A. Hyatt was the next and last pastor of this parish, having served from 1933-1936, when owing to crop failures and the consequent dwindling of the population of the district Youngstown and missions reverted to Oyen. The Rev. Frederick Foote had charge of the Oyen parish from 1939 until his death on September 6, 1943, when the present incumbent, The Rev. Arthur Hamilton became pastor. All this territory is farming and ranching country and covers an area of some 5,000 square miles.

The church titles are as follows: Oyen, Sacred Heart; Youngstown, St. Paul; Richdale, St. Peter; Sunnynook, St. Timothy; Cereal, St. Cyril.

### BASSANO, BROOKS AND EMPRESS 1913-1948

Bassano and Brooks up to 1917 were missions of Medicine Hat, and Empress a mission of Youngstown and Oyen. In 1917 the Rev. P. Beaton was

placed in charge of these missions and cared for them until 1919. The succeeding priests who have cared for this vast territory of some three to four thousand square miles have been: Fathers E. J. Dougan, 1919-21; Joseph Kreciszewski, 1921; Michael McQuaid, 1921-22; R. J. Donovan, 1922-24; Francis Arsenault, 1924-26, and Rev. F. Fitzpatrick, 1927-1932. During this period, Empress got a resident priest and the territory was divided between Brooks and Empress. Rev. Leo Sullivan was placed in charge of Empress and Missions, viz., Acadia Valley, Jenner, Tide Lake, Buffalo, Atlee and Bindloss. Brooks became the residence of that parish and missions, viz., Bassano, Patricia, Rosemary, Tilley, Lomond, Rolling Hills, Duchess, Bow City and Gem. The Rev. James Morrow was placed in charge of this territory in 1932 and is still pastor. Fr. Leo Sullivan's pastorate at Empress expired in 1939, and he was succeeded in 1940 by Rev. T. Stefanski who is still in charge.



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**ROCKYFORD  
1914-1948**

The village of Rockyford (population 280) and located 58 miles northeast of Calgary is the centre of a farming district. Although wheat is the principal crop; considerable mixed farming is done in the district which is within the irrigation area served by the Western Irrigation District.

From 1914, when the first passenger train passed through Rockyford, until 1918 the few Catholics who lived in the district attended Mass in the parishioners' homes, the pastor of Strathmore caring for the spiritual needs of these few Catholics. One of the first priests to say Mass in the district—Rev. Father Deman, O.M.I.—is still actively engaged in the ministry in the Peace River District.

In 1917 the few families were organized into a parish by the late Rev. Wm. Bowlen who supervised the drawing of the plans for a church. However, he

was transferred to Oyen before the church was built, and it was the task of Rev. A. J. MacGillivray, now pastor at Macleod, to accomplish the work begun by his predecessor. The first Mass was said in the newly-constructed church in September, 1918. The Rev. O. Cudahy was parish priest from 1918 to 1920.

During the next three years several families moved to the district, and in February, 1921, the Rev. Henry Boltz was appointed first pastor of Rockyford. The church had not been dedicated and Fr. Boltz placed the new parish under the protection of St. Rita of Cascia.

The following year the rectory was built. The land for the church and rectory was donated by Mr. Wm. Rudd, one of the first settlers in the district.

The church and rectory were only part of a much bigger scheme in the mind of Fr. Boltz. With the increase in the population the need for a separate school was felt. Mr. Rudd donated more land for





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school purposes and in 1925 a Separate School District was formed. On December 9, 1926, St. Rita's School was blessed by the Bishop of Calgary, Most Rev. J. T. Kidd, D.D.

In July, 1927, Fr. Boltz was appointed organist at St. Mary's Cathedral, Calgary, and the present pastor, Very Rev. J. Q. Killen, V.F., was appointed pastor of St. Rita's.

In 1928 the late Mr. Fred Stinn donated land for the erection of a convent. On August 31, 1929, St. Rita's Convent, conducted by the Ursuline Sisters, was officially opened and blessed by Most Rev. J. T. Kidd, D.D. Four Ursuline Sisters conduct a primary, intermediate and high school and boarding school for girls and young boys.

To accommodate the increasing congregation the church received attention and extensive alterations were made. The seating capacity was doubled and a more spacious sanctuary was provided. The church was rededicated and blessed on September 9, 1938, by His Excellency Most Rev. F. P. Carroll, D.D. The Catholic population at present (August, 1948) is 275 souls.

Rosebud, 14 miles east, and Carbon, 18 miles north, are missions attached to Rockyford parish.

In 1925 the local subdivision of the Catholic Women's League was organized, and in 1946 Rockyford Council of the Knights of Columbus, No. 3004, was instituted.



THE DOODADS OF DRUMHELLER

Photo by H. Pollard

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## **DRUMHELLER**

**1914-1948**

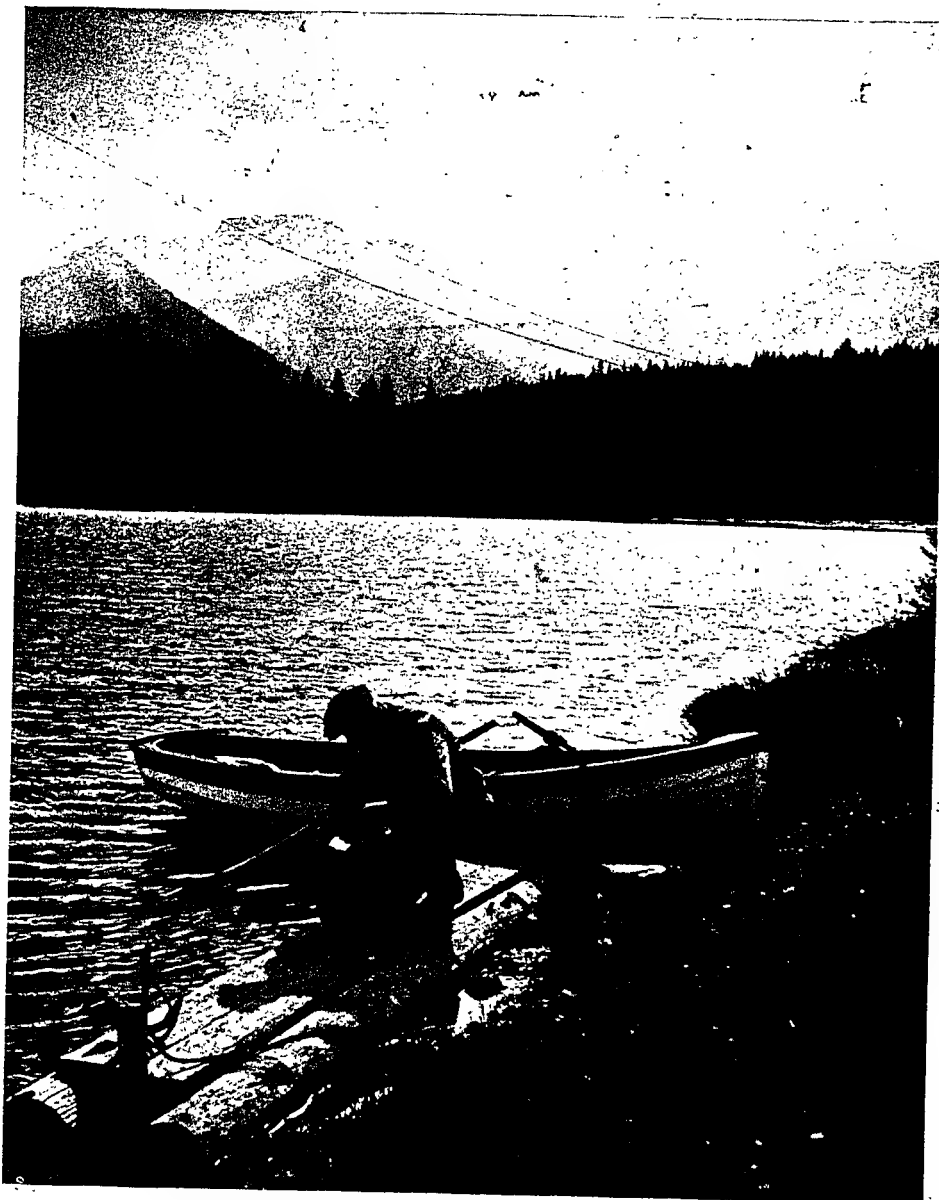
Drumheller, named after Samuel Drumheller, had its beginning as a town in 1911. The first test hole for coal was drilled by Mr. Jessé Gouge and Mr. G. N. Coyne in 1911. The Canadian Northern Railway also surveyed its line through the Valley in 1911 so as to reach Calgary.

The first missions on the line from Calgary to Oyen, including Drumheller, Munson, Youngstown and Oyen, were opened up and churches built in 1914 by Rev. Peter O'Dillon Russell, whose missionary work lasted until April, 1915. Rev. Wm. F. Bowlen, ordained in 1915, was placed in charge of the district and served Drumheller as a mission from Oyen until

1917 when Rev. A. J. McGillivray received his appointment from Bishop McNally as the first parish priest of Drumheller.

Father McGillivray remained as parish priest until 1927 when he was succeeded by Father P. J. N. Cosman. It was during the pastorate of Father McGillivray that the C.W.L. was established in 1923 with Mrs. W. R. Fulton as the first president.

Father Cosman was parish priest from 1927 until 1934 when he was succeeded by Father N. R. Anderson. It was during Father Cosman's pastorate that plans were laid and a fund begun for the erection of a new church, as the first church, which had been twice-enlarged by Fr. McGillivray, was no longer adequate for the growing population.



VERMILLION LAKES (near Banff)

Photo by Matthews

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Father Anderson was parish priest from September, 1934, until July, 1946. During these 12 years the parish developed rapidly. The new church begun in 1938 was opened and blessed by His Excellency Bishop Carroll in the spring of 1939. The Rev. John T. Dunbar has been parish priest since September, 1946.

In 1939 the following places were also attached to Drumheller: Munson, Midlandvale, Nacmine, Wayne, Rosedale, East Coulee and Dorothy. During Fr. Anderson's pastorate churches were built at Nacmine, Rosedale, East Coulee, Dorothy and Midlandvale. A church also was built at Munson, the orig-

inal church there having burned down. To assist in administering this enlarged parish two assistants were appointed. The three priests live in Drumheller and look after the whole of the Drumheller Valley as well as Munson and Dorothy. The parish has a total population of 15,000—of these one-third are Catholics.

The Ursuline Sisters established their convent in Drumheller in 1935 and they conduct a music school and a kindergarten and do social service work for Drumheller and district.

Drumheller is both a farming and industrial centre. As well as serving a most important farming



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area, Drumheller is also the centre of Alberta's domestic coal industry. Drumheller Valley coal mines are the most efficient in Canada and provide work for thousands of men.

Drumheller is the gateway to the prehistoric Bad Lands. Here millions of years ago huge reptiles roamed these lands. Dinosaur skeletons, ammonites, headless, legless creatures which absorbed nourishment through pores and blindly crawled over the pre-

historic swamps or floated idly in the vast bayous, petrified trees from massive stumps weighing four or five tons, to tiny twigs of ancient redwoods, some turned to coal, others by a strange freak of nature, made into rock, are scattered throughout the Valley. Stranger still in this land of contradictions can be found oyster shells, mussels and other shell fish denoting the fact that at one time this valley of history was the scene of a swirling ocean which swept down from the Arctic Circle to the Gulf of Mexico.



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Bryant Photo

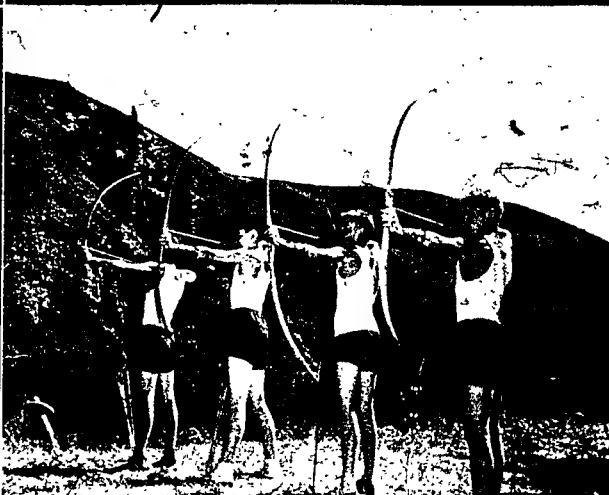
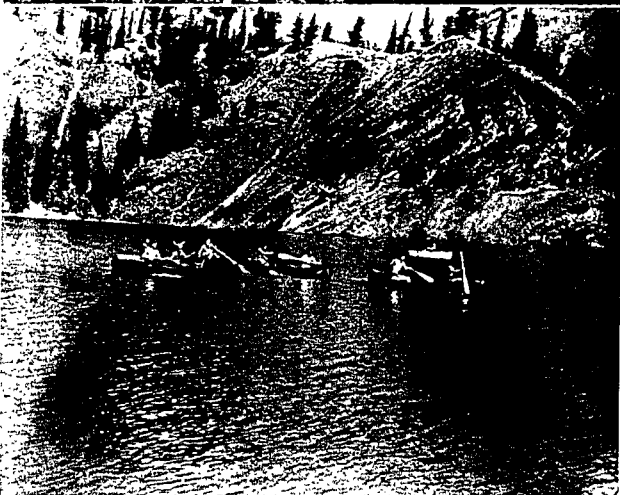
### ST. CYRIL'S CHURCH, BELLEVUE, ALBERTA 1914-1918

St. Cyril's parish, Bellevue, was established in 1914, by the late Rt. Rev. Ronald Beaton who died last spring in Comox, B.C. The first sod was turned on October 21, 1914 and the church was finally completed in 1915. The first Mass was sung in the new Church on May 9, 1915. Father Beaton was more than parish priest, for he himself did a great deal of the actual carpentry work and the church edifice is to this day a very creditable evidence and proof of his skill with tools.

Father Beaton went to Comox, B.C. in 1916 and was succeeded in Bellevue by the late Rev. J. P. N. Cosman who did much towards the further decorating and furnishing of the church and priest's rooms. He

later moved to Blairmore and attended Bellevue from there as a mission of the Blairmore parish.

In 1923, Rev. R. J. Donovan, who died in Calgary in 1943, came as parish priest to Bellevue and for over 12 years laboured with indefatigable zeal in this parish. Father Donovan was truly an Apostle in the interests of the church and his flock. He raised sufficient funds to improve the church considerably. He procured a very beautiful new altar, several devotional statues and painted the entire edifice both inside and out. In every way, Father Donovan proved himself the true pastor and a further evidence of his zeal is the establishment and building of two more parishes, one in Hillcrest and one in Burmis. Whatever may be the future history of the Church in this district, the name of Father Donovan will ever be re-



BOY SCOUTS AT CAMP CHELAN

Photos by Lorne Burkell

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vered and honored as the priest who contributed tremendously to the welfare and progress of the Church in the Crow's Nest Pass.

Rev. J. B. O'Dea, now of Ste. Famille Parish in Calgary, succeeded Father Donovan in the Bellevue parish in 1936. His four year tenure of office was one of continued zeal and activity in the interests of the church and the parishioners.

Bellevue has a Catholic population of over 700 and there are approximately 160 families in the parish. The present pastor is Rev. Arthur Anderson.

#### **St. Theresa's, a Mission of Bellevue**

In the fall of 1926, Most Reverend J. T. Kidd, then Bishop of Calgary, blessed the new church of St. Theresa in Hillcrest. This occasion marked the

happy culmination of a project dear to the heart of Father Donovan. He it was who saw the need for a church in Hillcrest; he left no stone unturned in his efforts to accomplish this work. St. Theresa's Church and parish of Hillcrest today is a parish of some 350 souls and 90 families.

It would not be a true story of the Church in Bellevue and Hillcrest if the grand work of the Sisters of St. Martha was not mentioned. Their constant visits to the people, their teaching of Catechism, and their prayerful community life have been the means of bringing many souls back to Christ. The people of the parishes of Blairmore, Coleman, Bellevue and Hillcrest have indeed very good reason to say fervently: "Thank God for the Sisters of St. Martha."



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### BLACK DIAMOND AND TURNER VALLEY

1918-1948

At first (1918) Black Diamond was a mission of High River. To Rev. Bowlen goes the credit of organizing the Catholics of the oilfields into a parish. For some 10 or 11 years it was served from High River and Mass was said in private homes. In 1929 the present St. Michael's Church was erected in Black Diamond at an initial cost of \$6,665.50. In 1930 Rev. Father A. J. McGillivray, now pastor at Macleod,

was appointed the first resident pastor and he erected the present rectory. He was succeeded by Rev. F. Fitzpatrick for one year. In 1933 the present pastor Rev. E. E. Mulvill, who had been on the teachers staff of St. Mary's Boys High School was placed in charge and on September 1st of this year will have completed his 15th year of incumbency. Turner Valley is some 40 miles southwest of Calgary and is well known for its wonderful production of oil and natural gas. The Catholic population is about 500. Okotoks has been served from Black Diamond since 1930.



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#### **PICTURE BUTTE**

**1945-1948**

St. Catherine's Parish of Picture Butte was established in September, 1945, the first pastor being Rev. James Smith, who served the parish until September, 1946. Rev. Wm. Leonard was administrator from September, 1946 to December, 1947. Rev. John O'Brien is the present pastor.

Picture Butte has as missions Our Lady of Mercy, Iron Springs; Shaughnessy and Turin. Its

population is around 1,000 and is fast growing. Most Catholic parishioners are from Central Europe, and great numbers of displaced persons from allied camps have been settled recently in the district.

The extent of the parish is roughly 22 miles long and 14 miles wide and is in an irrigated farming district known as the Lethbridge Northern Irrigation District. Sugar beets are the main crop which are sent to the Canadian sugar factory in Picture Butte. There is also a large coal mine (domestic coal) at Shaughnessy. It is also a large cattle raising district.





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The Most Rev. Mgr. John T. Kidd, President of St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto, was appointed Bishop of Calgary on February 6, 1925. He was consecrated in St. Michael's Cathedral, Toronto, on May 6th and came to Calgary on May 13, 1925. He was transferred to the See of London, Ontario, on July 3, 1931.

The Most Rev. Peter J. Monahan, Parish Priest of St. Patrick's, Fort William, was appointed Bishop of Calgary, on June 10, 1932. He was consecrated at North Bay, Ontario, on August 10 and came to Calgary on August 18, 1932. He was transferred to the metropolitan See of Regina, Sask., on June 22, 1935. Bishop Monahan died in Regina May 6th, 1947.

The Most Rev. Mgr. Francis P. Carroll, Vicar General and President of St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto, was appointed Bishop of Calgary, on December 19, 1935. He was consecrated in St. Michael's Cathedral, Toronto, on February 19, 1936; and came to Calgary on March 25, 1936.

*His Excellency the Most Reverend  
VITAL JUSTIN GRANDIN, O.M.I.  
First Bishop of St. Albert*

## THE DIOCESE AND BISHOPS OF CALGARY

**C**ALGARY was originally part of the old diocese of St. Albert. The first Bishop of St. Albert was the Right Rev. Vital Justin Grandin, O.M.I., who was consecrated in 1859 and appointed to the See of St. Albert in 1871. The second was the Right Rev. Emile J. Legal, O.M.I., who was consecrated in 1897 and appointed to the See of St. Albert in 1902. Bishop Legal became Archbishop of Edmonton in 1912.

The Diocese of Calgary was established on November 30, 1912, by Pope Pius X, in the Bull "Aeternam humani generis," by which the Diocese of St. Albert was divided into the Dioceses of Edmonton and Calgary. The Diocese comprises the southern part of the civil province of Alberta with the line that divides the 30th from the 31st townships as northern boundary; and is bounded on the east by the Province of Saskatchewan, on the south by the United States border, and on the west by the summit of the Rocky Mountains.

The Most Rev. John T. McNally, Parish Priest of Almonte in the Diocese of Ottawa, was appointed first Bishop of Calgary, on April 4, 1913. He was consecrated, on June 1, 1913, by Cardinal Falconio, in the Canadian College at Rome; and came to Calgary on July 27th, 1913. He was transferred to the See of Hamilton, on August 12, 1924, and was promoted to the archiepiscopal See of Halifax in February, 1937.





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## The Catholic Women's League of Canada in the Diocese of Calgary

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THE organization and history of the Calgary Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada is closely related to the Calgary Senior Subdivision which was organized in Calgary on May 8, 1921. The Calgary subdivision wishing to share its gift for a fuller Catholic life of service obtained the permission of His Excellency Most Rev. J. T. McNally, D.D., Bishop of Calgary, to organize other subdivisions in his diocese.

The Calgary Diocesan Council was organized on November 9, 1923, at the first Diocesan Convention held in Calgary, and was incorporated on April 20, 1926. Reports at this first convention were received from Calgary, Drumheller, Medicine Hat and Pincher Creek. The League has shown steady growth ever since. At the 1948 Diocesan Convention held at Lethbridge June, 1948, reports were received from 37 subdivisions representing over 2,000 members.

The diocesan presidents have been: Mrs. J. E. McDonald, Mrs. P. A. Woodlock, Mrs. P. J. McCrohan, Mrs. A. G. Plunkett, Mrs. B. F. Kiser, Mrs. A. C. Saunders, Mrs. J. J. Tighe, Mrs. J. R. Eustice, Mrs. H. Jeffers, Mrs. W. C. Quinlan, Mrs. E. E. Landry, Mrs. J. F. Meagher, Mrs. J. L. McNamara, Mrs. A. H. Kyle and Mrs. H. Stevens.

Four members have been honoured with life memberships: Mrs. P. A. Woodlock, Mrs. A. J. Kimball, Mrs. J. P. Hughes and Mrs. H. Stevens.

The work done by the parish subdivisions is remarkable. During 1947-48 the sum of \$19,767.44 was reported as having been directly disbursed in parish activities. All parish subdivisions reported the cleaning and painting, etc., of their churches or rectories either doing the work themselves or paying to have it done. Carpets, cassocks, surplices, flowers,

candles, incense, missals, altar bread and linens had been bought and church linens laundered and mended.

The work of the Calgary and Lethbridge Business Women's units of the League features social, recreational, catechetical and Girl Guide work. In the 20th annual catechetical report of the Calgary Business unit it was reported that during the past 20 years the catechetical committee had mailed catechism lessons to 6,500 pupils, had corrected 106,000 lessons and had spent \$2,750 in conducting their correspondence course in Christian Doctrine.

The Calgary Senior Subdivision has been an inter-parochial unit and the members have concentrated on work that would benefit the community as a whole. The following is some of the work they have done: In 1921 they gave \$4,633.83 to the diocesan seminary fund; in 1926 they purchased Rosary Hall, furnished it and maintained it as a home for working girls; in 1928 they bought and furnished The Hostel as a home for immigrant girls; in the same year they were also hostesses to the National Convention of the League, held in Calgary; in 1939 a Catholic Soldiers' Club was completely furnished at a cost of \$1,254 and turned over to Knights of Columbus management; in 1943 the Providence Creche was established and in 1944 the sum of \$9,705.64 was raised for the Creche.

A new day for all Canadian Catholic women has dawned. The new Constitution has brought the League in harmony with the ecclesiastical structure of the Church. Our devoted Bishops will now truly direct us. Under the guidance of Our Lady of Good Counsel let us grasp the golden opportunity the League affords to spend our lives for God and Canada.